OVCA Graduate Student Stipend Support Program

Components of the Program

1. OVC Graduate Stipend Fund - Group 1 (students without DVM degrees)
2. OVC Graduate Stipend Fund – Group 2 (DVM graduates)
3. Incentive Stipend Fund

1. OVC Graduate Stipend Fund - Group 1 (students without DVM degrees)

Source of Funds:

The provincial government has invested considerable funding for graduate student positions at Ontario universities. These funds are transferred annually to universities based on the level of graduate student enrolment. To further support our graduate teaching and increase our research productivity we are using these funds strategically to provide stipends for graduate training and recruitment. This program will build on, rather than replace, existing funding sources for graduate training (e.g. funds from research grants, external scholarship programs etc.) in order to promote graduate student growth at OVC.

The following scholarships are available:

- **PhD Scholarships**
  - For excellent candidates with MSc degrees wishing to enter a PhD program.
  - Also, for students in MSc programs who wish to transfer to a PhD program
  - $20,000 per year for 3 years

- **MSc Scholarships** (for thesis-based programs)
  - $18,500 per year for 2 years

Competitions and application process:

Candidates for the OVC fellowship or scholarship funds should complete an application form.

The application includes a statement of interest, an identified advisor at OVC, an outline of the research proposal, transcript of university grades, two letters of recommendation and a curriculum vitae.

As part of the Terms and Conditions of the stipend successful candidates are required to apply for external scholarships during the course of their studies (see below).
Details about graduate programs at the Ontario Veterinary College can be found on the college research website.

*Applications should be submitted to the following e-mail address: ovceschol@uoguelph.ca*

2. **OVC Graduate Stipend Fund –Group 2 (DVM graduates)**

To address the extraordinary national opportunities for veterinarians, the Ontario Veterinary College has developed an on-going program of MSc/PhD research training positions for veterinarians who are Canadian citizens or permanent residents.

Stipends of a minimum of $28,000 (MSc, 2 years) to $30,000 (PhD, 3 years) are competitively available for well-qualified DVM graduates with excellent academic records in any of the broad fields of graduate studies listed below:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Biomedical Toxicology and Pharmacology</th>
<th>Reproductive biology</th>
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<tr>
<td>Developmental, Cell and Tissue Morphology</td>
<td>Immunology</td>
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<tr>
<td>Epidemiology</td>
<td>Pathology</td>
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<td>Food Safety</td>
<td>Comparative Pathology</td>
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<td>Veterinary Infectious Disease</td>
<td>Laboratory Animal Science</td>
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Terms and Conditions of Graduate Stipend Support Program:

- These OVC Graduate Stipend Support awards and Incentive Stipends are intended to support new graduate enrolment and therefore only students that have not yet enrolled in the intended graduate program of study are eligible to apply.
- To be eligible for this funding from the Ontario government, candidates must be Canadian citizens or permanent residents.
- Candidates must identify a faculty advisor who confirm their willingness to accept the student. Faculty advisors must have sufficient research operating funds to support the research activity for the entire duration of the graduate student’s program.
- Holders of an OVC Graduate Stipend award may not hold full-time employment during any period of time in which they hold the award. The OVC Graduate Stipend Support program will adhere to NSERC guidelines that strongly suggest that awardees limit the number of hours of employment per 12-month period to 450 hours.
- Holders of an OVC Graduate Stipend award must apply for major external graduate scholarships (e.g. OGS, NSERC, CIHR, OMAFRA HQP etc.) for which they qualify during their first year (for MSc and PhD students) and also in the second year (for PhD students) if the external application was unsuccessful or if the award is only for one year. The scholarship stipend for the subsequent year will not be released until the external scholarship application has been submitted. If the student is successful in obtaining external funding the OVC Graduate Stipend award will be adjusted (based on the rules and requirements of the external award) to an equivalent of 50% of the external award or 50% of the OVC Graduate Stipend award whichever is the lesser amount. The remainder will be remitted to the college to support another student. If the student is unsuccessful in obtaining external funding, the OVC Graduate Stipend award will continue to be available for the duration of the graduate program. Adjustments will also be made for students who have obtained non-college graduate scholarships from applications submitted prior to being granted an OVC fellowship/scholarship.
- Semester progress reports of OVC Graduate Stipend award holders will be reviewed on an annual basis by the Research Advisory Committee and if progress is unsatisfactory, the OVC Graduate Stipend award will be cancelled. Students are responsible for forwarding the Graduate Student Evaluation Reports to the Dean’s Office. The fellowship/scholarship stipend for the subsequent year will not be released if semester progress reports are not submitted.
- All OVC Graduate Stipend award holders must participate in college research activities such as the Graduate Student Research Symposium.
3. Incentive stipend fund

Incentive funds are available to be used to supplement existing stipends to recruit and retain exceptional MSc and PhD candidates who are Canadian citizens or permanent residents in thesis-based graduate programs. These funds cannot be used to top up OVC Graduate Stipend Support awards or DVM stipends but are intended to supplement student stipends that have already been secured. These funds are targeted for recruitment of students who haven’t yet started their graduate programs. However, funds may also be used as stipend support for students who wish to transfer from MSc to PhD programs.

Applications to the Incentive Stipend Fund will consist of a maximum of two pages that will include information regarding qualifications of the candidate, source of existing graduate student stipend, amount of incentive stipend requested and appropriate justification. Applications will be submitted to the Associate Dean, Research and Innovation on an ad hoc basis and will be reviewed by the Research Advisory Committee and funds will be allocated on case-by-case basis.