

DEPARTMENT OF BIOCHEMISTRY
DEVOLVED SCHOLARSHIP ACTION PLAN
Revised April 2018

1. Criteria for Awarding a Devolved Scholarship:

Devolved scholarships will be awarded to students using the following criteria.

A. Acceptance into the graduate program

For a student to be eligible, they must have been accepted by CGSR as a fully-qualified graduate student into the graduate program of the Department of Biochemistry, and have a supervisor identified. The deadline for acceptance into the program is June 30th in the year in which the devolved scholarship will be awarded.

B. Supervisor and commitment of financial support

The supervisor(s) must agree to provide the financial support necessary to complete the graduate program. The total amount of the scholarship that the student will receive must meet or exceed the minimum amount of a scholarship established by the CGSR for non-devolved departments. In 2017-2018, these amounts are \$19,000 for MSc, and \$24,000 for PhD.

C. Number of years of eligibility and time in program

1. M.Sc. Scholarships - maximum 2 years of support, not beyond the 3rd year in the program
2. Ph.D. Scholarships - maximum 3 years of support, not beyond the 4th year in the program
3. M.Sc. transferred to Ph.D. Scholarships - maximum 4 years of support (2 years at M.Sc. and 2 years at Ph.D. levels), not beyond the 5th year in the program
4. A \$4000 merit supplement for students awarded scholarships from a national funding agency

D. Academic standing

- i) Applicants holding degrees from Canadian or U.S. universities:

M.Sc. students - A GPA of 78% (or equivalent) over the final 60 cu of undergraduate study is required. A student not meeting this academic requirement, but who achieves an 78% average or better in at least 3 cu of 800-level coursework during the first year of MSc study, will be considered to have met the academic requirement for a devolved scholarship in their second year of study.

Ph.D. students - Marks of M.Sc. study. A GPA of 80% (or equivalent) is required.

M.Sc. students who transferred to a Ph.D. program - Eligibility during the MSc and PhD portions of the program are the same as described above.

ii) Graduates of educational systems outside Canada and the U.S.:

The academic standing of these students can be difficult to evaluate and equate to North American standards. Therefore, new students will be considered for the devolved scholarship on a case-by-case basis by the Departmental Committee on Graduate Studies and Research. Generally, in order to be eligible, their academic standing should be equal or better than that of an equivalent U of S graduate, as assessed by the Departmental Committee on Graduate Studies and Research. Following their first year in the program, the eligibility of international graduate students for a devolved scholarship will be determined using the same criteria as for non-international students.

iii) China Scholarship Students:

The CSC PhD scholarship funding (currently \$19,200/annum) requires the supervisor to pay the tuition of the student (in addition to topping up the salary to \$24K as per departmental guidelines). Therefore, CSC students will be excluded from the 50% top-up stipend policy that is in place for other external scholarships.

E. Satisfactory progress in research - In order for any student to be eligible to receive a devolved scholarship, satisfactory progress in their research is required. Since the advisory committee is in the best position to evaluate this, all advisory committees must make a recommendation at the annual May advisory committee meeting as to whether the student has met this requirement. The decision, by vote if necessary, will be documented in the minutes of the meeting and used in the decision to award a scholarship. Note - for obvious reasons, new students will not have to meet this requirement.

Renewals: Devolved scholarships can be renewed, subject to the above criteria and the condition that a student must maintain an average of 78% in all graduate courses taken.

2. Distribution of Funds:

In August of every year, the graduate chair of the department will generate a list of all students in the program who are eligible for a devolved scholarship, using the criteria set out above. First, the devolved scholarship fund will be used to provide a \$4000 supplement to students who currently hold a national scholarship/award. An award from the CIHR-RPP program will be considered to have met this condition. The rationale for this is to recognize the achievement of the student; to remain competitive with other institutions; and to encourage students to apply for such awards. The remainder of the devolved scholarship fund will then be equally divided among all eligible students. The balance of the scholarship, to bring it up to the level of the graduate scholarships awarded to students in non-devolved departments, will be derived from other sources such as the supervisor's research grant, funds available through the department, college or university, etc. Payrolls for these scholarships will be processed by the Department. The duration of the scholarship awarded is for one year, beginning on September 1 of each year.

Teaching is an integral part of graduate student training. It is helpful for graduate students to gain experience in the presentation of course material in the form of lectures, tutorials and/or demonstration in laboratory classes. Scholarship holders may be asked to participate to a maximum of 4 hr/week in Departmental teaching programs.

3. Equity:

The Department fully supports and commits to the equity goals of the CGSR and the University of Saskatchewan.