

 <b>UBC MD PhD</b>	<b>Policy No:</b> <b>2008-01</b>	<b>Approval Date:</b> <b>December 2007</b>  <b>Revision Dates:</b> <b>November 2018</b> <b>May 2021</b> <b>May 2025</b>
	<b>Effective Date:</b> <b>September 2025</b>	
<b>Title:</b> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>MD/PhD Studentship Stipend</b></p>		
<b>Background &amp; Purposes:</b> <p>The shortage of clinician-scientists and the expansion of the medical school provide strong rationales for expanding the MD/PhD Program. As part of research training and the building of a track record as a junior researcher, student applications (in their own name) to external grant foundations are already strongly encouraged, and MD/PhD students have an excellent record of success in such competitions. Taking these facts into account, this policy proposes a solution to the potential problem of consistently taking on additional students beyond our program stipends and a mechanism to support student success in the program.</p>		

1. Scope

1.1 This policy applies to all students in the MD/PhD Program.

2. Student Stipend Support Principles

- 2.1 Successful candidates admitted to the MD/PhD Program will be provided with an annual student stipend by a combination of program sources for a maximum of 6 years for the 7-year combined program.
- 2.2 Beginning September of the first year of the combined program, the student will receive an annual stipend from the program (guaranteed at \$30000 stipend and \$5000 research allowance).
- 2.3 If the student obtains an external award, that award will replace the MD/PhD Program stipend. If funding from the external award is less than the annual \$30000 amount, the program will provide a top-up amount to reach the guaranteed amount.

3. Student Responsibilities

- 3.1 The student is required to apply for external awards based on their 4YF assignments. If unsuccessful, they can try again in the next year of the combined program.
- 3.2 Each student is required to provide an annual progress report to the Program Director.
- 3.3 The student and the supervisor(s) are required to meet with the Program Director at least once a year throughout their entire program timeline. The purpose of the meeting is to evaluate student annual progress, review academic/research goals and stipend support in the coming year.
- 3.4 The student will also be evaluated at least once a year by the Research Supervisory Committee (which must include one member who is familiar with the MD/PhD program). Continuation in the combined program and stipend support is contingent upon satisfactory scholastic and research progress.

- 3.5 To be eligible for stipend support and continue with program completion:
  - 3.5.1 The student is required to successfully defend his/her thesis and submit the final version of the thesis to cIRcle before re-entry to clinical rotations.
  - 3.5.2 If the student is successful in defending his/her thesis before re-entry to clinical rotations, s/he is required to submit the final version of the thesis to cIRcle within the time allowed in the Chair's Report on the Final Doctoral Examination.
  - 3.5.3 In exceptional circumstances, if the student is unable to schedule a defense date before re-entry to clinical rotations, s/he is required to submit his/her thesis to the external examiner before re-entry to clinical rotations, then complete the oral defense and submit the final version of the thesis to cIRcle within 6 months.
  - 3.5.4 In exceptional circumstances, if student fails to complete their PhD defense before entering the last year of the MD curriculum (MED 4). Student will not be allowed to participate in CaRMS match (usually within the last 8 months of the combined program).

#### 4. Research Supervisor Responsibilities

- 4.1 In the unlikely event that the student is unsuccessful in obtaining external funding, the primary research supervisor is obligated to provide bridge funding in the minimum amount of \$30000 per annum for the student stipend for one year, usually Year 5 of the combined program.
- 4.2 Although the program is expected to be completed in seven years, in rare cases where the research extends beyond Year 5, necessitating one or more additional years in the MD/PhD Program, that research period would also be funded by the primary research supervisor/external award(s) [i.e., same terms as Year 5].

#### 5. Reconsideration of Stipend Support Decisions

- 5.1 In very exceptional circumstance, if re-entry to clinical rotations occurs before thesis submission to the external examiner, the student will receive no stipend support from the combined program until both submission and defense have occurred. The stipend suspension period is from June in Med III until final thesis submission to cIRcle.
- 5.2 Per 3.5.2. If the student is unable to submit the final version of the thesis to cIRcle within the time allowed in the Chair's Report on the Final Doctoral Examination, s/he will receive no stipend support from the program between that deadline and the time of final thesis submission to cIRcle.
- 5.3 Per 3.5.3. If the student is unable to complete the oral defense and submit the final version of the thesis to cIRcle within 6 months from June in Med III, his/her stipend support from the combined program will be suspended as of January in Med III until final thesis submission to cIRcle.
- 5.4 Per 3.5.4. If the student is not allowed to participate in CaRMS match due to an incomplete PhD defense. Students will likely have to defer their graduation timeline from the combined program in order to be eligible for the dual degree otherwise it will result in a withdrawal from their PhD.
- 5.5 If the student is on approved leave of absence during the funding support year of the combined program, stipend support will be temporarily suspended during the leave period.

