

MD/PhD and MD/MSc Program Terms and Conditions

Please note that **all students pursuing an MD/PhD or MD/MSc are subject to the supplemental regulations of their host department** in which they are pursuing their graduate studies.

It is strongly recommended that the proposed Advisor and Trainee should review and discuss this document prior to applying to the program.

The Institution

The University of Manitoba, College of Medicine (hereafter referred to as the Institution) aims to provide relevant high-quality training programs that maintain the highest ethical and scientific standards. In matters relating to the quality and integrity of the program, length of study, benefits and stipend, supervisor conduct and grievance procedures, the Institution shall provide oversight and direction.

The Program

The Program refers to the Advanced Degrees in Medicine Program (i.e., MD/PhD & MD/MSc) which is the funding body to support students to pursue either an MD/PhD or MD/MSc upon successful acceptance into the program.

Responsibilities of Graduate Students. Graduate students conducting research with humans or animals must comply all University policies in the conduct of their research. They are reminded that they are enrolled as PhD or MSc students in the Faculty of Graduate studies and must respect the terms and conditions established by the Faculty of Graduate Studies (detailed on their website), their host department (specifically the departmental supplementary regulations), and this program (detailed in this document).

1. A stipend is provided to MD/PhD registrants in good standing to allow full time focus on the doctoral program. MD/PhD trainees in good standing receive renewable stipend funding of \$21,000 per annum plus a \$1000 research allowance for a maximum of six years while actively engaged in research. Other sources of external funding (such as CGS or Vanier awards) will be **in place of** and **not in addition to** the MD/PhD program's commitment of \$21,000 per year. The 6 year maximum term allowed by the MD/PhD program for financial support is **not extendable**.
2. MD/MSc trainees that remain in good academic standing receive renewable stipend funding of \$21,000 per annum for time spent actively engaged in full time research (i.e. approx. 2-2.5 years). MD/MSc students may receive a \$1000 research allowance typically in year 2 of the program (see 4 below).
3. Advanced Degrees in Medicine students are encouraged to seek outside student stipend funding for their research (i.e. CIHR Banting and Best Studentships) with the assistance

of their supervisor. Salary top-ups are at the sole discretion of the Advisor, but will not be provided by the Advanced Degrees in Medicine program.

4. Current MD/PhD and MD/MSc trainees -upon receiving written *pre-approval* from the Program Office - may spend up to \$1000 research allowance (annually for MD/PhD students) on educational expenses related to their research program. These include (i) travel expenses to attend a conference (ii) computer software or hardware, (iii) textbooks, (iv) laboratory consumables, or (v) publication expenses. Questions about eligibility of specific purchases can be addressed to the Program Office (advanceddegreesmedicine@umanitoba.ca) prior to undertaking expenses.
5. In accepting funding provided by the Advanced Degrees in Medicine Program, or by being awarded competitive funding directly by CIHR, the trainee must comply with the terms of such funding as defined in the CIHR Grants and Awards Guide, <http://www.cihr-irsc.gc.ca/e/805.html>. Specifically, the amount and nature of other sources of remuneration are strictly limited. The core CIHR statement indicates that it is acceptable to be *“engaging in, and accepting remuneration for limited departmental activities that contribute to their development as a future independent researcher, provided that this does not interfere with their research training progress”*.

Paid employment not directly related to the student’s academic development is forbidden. Activities deemed to enhance academic development (i.e. tutoring, teaching assistant, demonstrating laboratories) are allowed as long as they do not detract from thesis progress. Students are cautioned that the more time devoted to other activities, the longer the time to degree completion. A set number of permissible hours per year is not defined as this would be contingent upon the needs, abilities and research progress of each individual student. Trainees who wish to be enrolled in the Advanced Degrees in Medicine Program must obtain written approval from the Trainee’s Advisor and the Program Director prior to accepting income from any other source. In cases of disagreement, the issue will be referred to the Program Admissions and Advisory Committee (PAAC) for adjudication.

6. In addition to the Faculty of Graduate Studies annual progress report, all trainees will schedule at least one additional meeting with their Supervisor and Advisory Committee to assess academic and research progress. A copy of the detailed FGS annual report and additional committee progress report must be emailed to the Program Office (advanceddegreesmedicine@umanitoba.ca).
7. Reintegration into Med III needs to be planned with attention to deadlines for both the graduate and the MD programs. One year prior to the anticipated return to full time medical studies, the Trainee and Advisor should bring this intention to the attention of their Advisory Committee to seek independent advice on whether this is realistically attainable. **In order to begin Med III, at a minimum, the trainee must provide the Advisor and Advisory Committee with a completed PhD or MSc thesis suitable for examination.** The Oral Defense should be scheduled for within 15 months of beginning Med III. Trainees should make themselves fully aware of Faculty of Graduate Studies deadlines and the time required for the internal and external examiners to read the

thesis. **It is strongly advised that students defend their thesis prior to beginning Clerkship.**

8. **Return to MD studies post-PhD/MSc:** The Trainee should notify the UGME office well in advance of their intent to undertake Med III so as to confirm that all necessary arrangements are made. Briefly, **Introduction to Clerkship** occurs only once a year, commencing the last Monday of August. Other than that, the MD program is flexible about when rotations and electives occur. Up to 8 weeks of elective time may be taken to work on finalization of the graduate thesis or finishing manuscripts for publication. Candidates should be aware that eligibility for the CaRMS match is such that all components of the MD program must be completed by the end of June in the year of residency program commencement.