

2025-26 Zoology Funding Policy

2025-26 Funding Minimums (PhD Students)

- Starting from the 2025-2026 academic year, the minimum support level is **\$32,000 for all PhD students.**
- PhD students are guaranteed to receive financial support for 5 years equal to or above minimum levels established by The Department of Zoology if satisfactory progress is maintained.
- The Faculty of Science currently pays tuition for PhD students for the first 12 terms (4 years) of study, provided the tuition is not paid by another source such as an award, scholarship, or external funding.
 - In year 5, supervisors are responsible for increasing the stipend sufficient to meet the **minimum support level plus tuition.**
- Some awards directly pay the tuition, but in all other cases (e.g., GRA supplements from the supervisor) students are responsible for using these funds to pay any remaining tuition assessed by the University. In these cases, students may be eligible for a [tuition deadline deferral](#).
- PhD students are guaranteed to receive financial support for five years equal to or above minimum levels established by The Department of Zoology if satisfactory progress is maintained.
- The expected time for completion is 5 years. It is the responsibility of the student, supervisor, and supervisory committee to develop a research project that can be completed within this time. **Minimum support level should be extended for students beyond 5 years if the student is making satisfactory progress and a clear plan for completion is in place. Reductions below the minimum stipend after year 5 must be approved by a graduate advisor.**

President's Academic Excellence Initiative (PAEI) PhD Award

- The PAEI is an award automatically assigned to all PhD students from UBC.
- The amount varies depending on status and/or year of study and may change from year to year.
- For Zoology PhD students, the PAEI is:
 - In addition to the Zoology minimum (Years 1-4)
 - Counted towards their research supervisor's required tuition support (Year 5)

2025-26 Funding Minimums (MSc Students)

- For the 2025-2026 academic year, the minimum support level is **\$30,000 for all MSc students.**
- MSc students are guaranteed to receive financial support equal to or above minimum levels established by The Department of Zoology for the first 2 years, if satisfactory progress is maintained.
- In addition to this minimum stipend, students will receive funds to offset tuition for the first two years via awards or other funding, and may also require supplemental funding from the supervisor.
- Some awards directly pay the tuition, but in all other cases (e.g., GRA supplements from the supervisor) students are responsible for using these funds to pay any remaining tuition assessed by the University. In these cases, students may be eligible for a [tuition deadline deferral](#).
- MSc students are guaranteed to receive financial support equal to or above minimum levels established by The Department of Zoology for the first 2 years, if satisfactory progress is maintained.
- The expected time for completion is 2 years. It is the responsibility of the student, supervisor, and supervisory committee to develop a research project that can be completed within this time. **Minimum support level should be extended for students beyond 2 years if the student is making satisfactory progress and a clear plan for completion is in place.**

Funding sources

- The source(s) of financial support can include any combination of the following: Teaching Assistantships (TAs); awards or scholarships from The Department, UBC, or external sources (with the exception of tuition awards described below); and Graduate Research Assistantships (GRAs) paid from the supervisor's research funds. For students making satisfactory progress, the sum of all funding received from these various sources must meet or exceed the minimum levels established by The Department.
- To achieve the minimum level of support a student may be required to TA up to two terms per year. Students must apply for TA positions each year. If a student does not accept an offered TA position or does not apply, the supervisor is not responsible for making up the difference to meet the minimum funding level.
- The Department guarantees two TA positions per year for the first 5 years of the PhD program and first 2 years of the MSc program, provided the student applies for a TA by the deadline.

- Beyond these years, TA positions are not guaranteed but will be assigned based on availability.
- Graduate students in Zoology are generally not permitted to TA more than two times in an academic year. In exceptional circumstances, upon approval by the Graduate Advisor(s), students may be allowed to TA an additional course; in this circumstance, the additional TA salary will not count toward their minimum financial support.

Satisfactory Progress

- Satisfactory progress towards completion of the degree will be assessed by the supervisory committee during the annual committee meeting and must be documented with a signed and submitted committee meeting form.
- At each committee meeting, student assessment by the committee will be noted as one of the following: “Exceeding expectations”, “Meeting expectations”, “Concern noted”, or “Unsatisfactory”. Either of the first two categories constitutes satisfactory progress.
 - If **“Concern noted”** is selected, the committee must determine whether the next committee meeting will occur within three or six months. Clear milestones must be established for defining satisfactory progress at the next committee meeting. At the follow-up committee meeting, progress must be deemed either meeting expectations or unsatisfactory.
 - If **“Unsatisfactory”** is selected, the committee must meet with the graduate program advisors to explain the situation. The graduate program advisors will meet separately with the student to obtain their perspective. Unsatisfactory progress may result in loss of funding or removal of the student from the graduate program. This decision is at the discretion of the graduate program advisors