

International Student Hardship Fund

Description

The International Student Hardship Fund (herein known as “the Fund”) is intended to assist international students enrolled in the Graduate Program in Neuroscience (GPN) who are facing unexpected and sudden financial difficulties related to essential expenses, such as housing, emergency travel, food, and medical emergencies not covered by MSP or extended health insurance.

Total Funds to be Allocated

The GPN budget has allocated \$5,000 to be used until **December 31, 2023**.

Maximum amount per student

\$1,000 per student (for the whole duration of studies in the program).

Eligibility

Only graduate students (MSc and Ph.D.) in the GPN with valid study permits in Canada are eligible to apply.

Deadline

The applications are open on a rolling basis until the Fund is depleted.

Promotion

International students will be informed about the opportunity through the following channels:

- Program-wide email to inform all students about the Fund and its availability.
- A monthly feature of the Fund in the GPN Newsletter to ensure continued awareness until the funds run out.
- A permanent post on the GPN website to provide accessible information about the Fund for all students.

Application Procedure

1. Distribute a form to all students that they can fill out to request the funds.
2. Upon receiving applications, the ISAAC chair notifies other committee members via email.

3. Depending on the urgency, the committee may call for an emergency meeting prior to the regular monthly meeting.
4. The committee discusses the application and decides by voting if the funds should be allocated.
 - a. If multiple applications are made so that the overall budget will be exceeded, the committee makes a list to prioritize applications based on applicants' needs or reduce the amount allocated per application where possible.
5. All applicants are notified of the committee's decision.
6. When the committee makes the decision, the chair of the committee contacts the graduate program coordinator with a list of names and the amount to be allocated to each.
7. The graduate program coordinator facilitates payments through the G+PS Awards team.

Confidentiality notice.

All student applications and any accompanying documents containing information belonging to the applicant are confidential and legally privileged. Any information shared by the student is only for the use of the current committee members, the graduate program coordinator, and the G+PS Awards team. Names of the students who applied to receive the Funds are not to be shared with any parties outside the ones mentioned above, on social media, in newsletters, award announcements, etc.