

Consultation Survey on Program-Level Fellowship Pool

This is a student consultation for the 2023/2024 Faculty of Arts and Science Program-Level Fellowship. This was implemented to support graduate research and education priorities. Each department has the opportunity to consult with its graduate students to identify the most beneficial way to use this resource. The fellowship will be scaled to the number of students in the funded cohort (calculated at \$1000 per student in 2023-24). These funds can only be distributed directly to students in the funded cohort, and will not require additional TA or RA work.

The Graduate Department of Chemistry requests your input on how to best utilize this funding for the academic year 2023-2024. If you wish to speak to the Associate Chair about your recommendations, please contact Professor Mark Taylor at chem.gradchair@utoronto.ca to set-up a meeting.

PLF distribution since implementation:

- In 2017/2018, PLF was distributed as follows: \$400 towards increasing base funding; \$100 towards funding financial need especially for those who do not qualify for OSOTF.
- In 2018/2019, PLF was distributed as follows: \$900 towards increasing base funding' \$100 towards funding financial need especially for those who do not qualify for OSOTF.
- In 2019/2020, PLF is being distributed as follows: \$700 towards increasing base funding (will be paid out in late November/early December); \$200 towards teaching reduction awards to 10 doctoral students in their 3rd year and beyond; \$100 towards financial assistance especially for those who have dependents and/or do not qualify for OSOTF.
- In 2020/2021, PLF is being distributed as follows: \$700 towards increasing base funding (will be paid out in late November/early December); \$200 towards teaching reduction awards to 10 doctoral students in their 3rd year and beyond; \$100 towards financial assistance especially for those who have dependents and/or do not qualify for OSOTF.
- In 2021/2022, PLF will be distributed as follows: \$700 towards increasing base funding (will be paid out in December); \$200 towards teaching reduction awards to 10 doctoral students in their 3rd year and beyond; \$50 towards financial assistance especially for those who have dependents and/or do not qualify for OSOTF. \$50 towards creating awards for achieving milestones in the program.
- In 2022/2023, PLF will be distributed as follows: \$900 towards increasing base funding (will be paid out in December to all students in the funded cohort including major scholarship holders) and \$100 towards financial assistance especially for those who have dependents and/or do not qualify for OSOTF.

We are interested in finding out if you wish to maintain more or less the same distribution of the funding. Also, we welcome new suggestions you may have. Please rank each statement (1 as least priority to 5 being a high priority).

FYI:

--> Base funding increase schedule from Faculty of Arts & Science

2019-20	\$500	Base funding for departments in sciences \$18,000 plus fees
2020-21	\$500	Base funding for departments in sciences \$18,500 plus fees
2021-22	\$500	Base funding for departments in sciences \$19,000 plus fees
2022-23	\$500	Base funding for departments in sciences \$19,500 plus fees

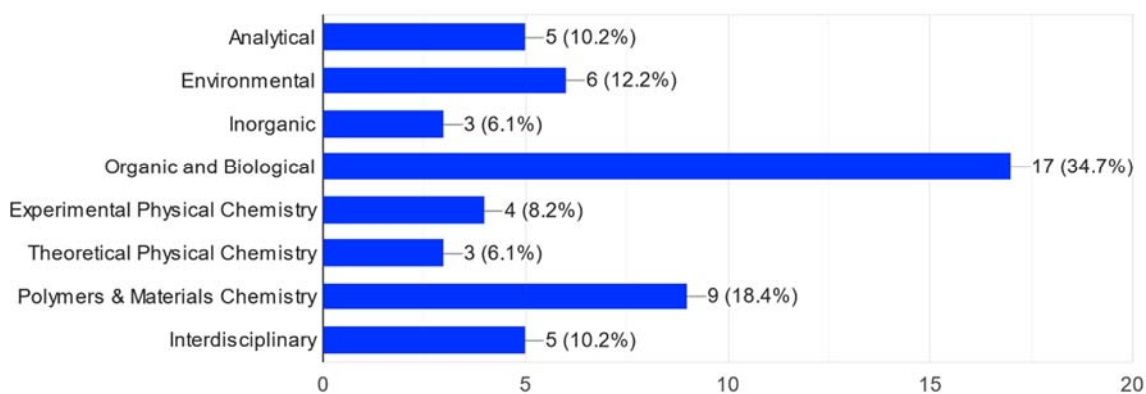
Current take-home pay (ie. after fees) in chemistry is \$26,900 (no major scholarship), \$29,170 (OGS/QEII), \$30,359 (CGS M/PGSD) and \$35,080 (CGSD). In addition, students in the funded cohort (including scholarship holders) are also scheduled to receive an additional \$500 from the Faculty of Arts & Science. See memo sent on October 17, 2022 subject: Grad Funding Enhancement.

--> Students who require help understanding their funding package may contact chem.grad@utoronto.ca for an appointment. Make sure that you have read your Grad Funding letter prior to making the appointment.

The objective of the Program Level Fellowships is not just to provide funds to students, but to have a conversation about funding in a respectful way.

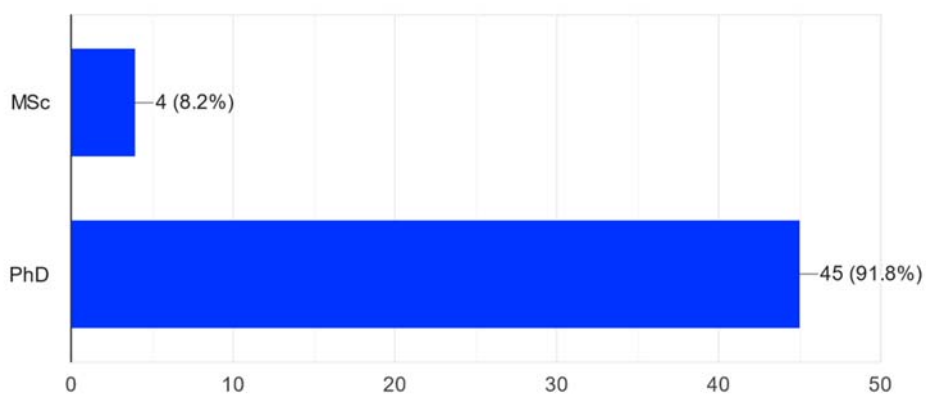
Sub-discipline

49 responses



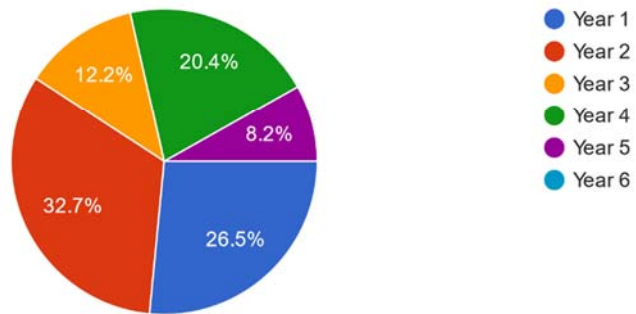
Current Program of Study

49 responses



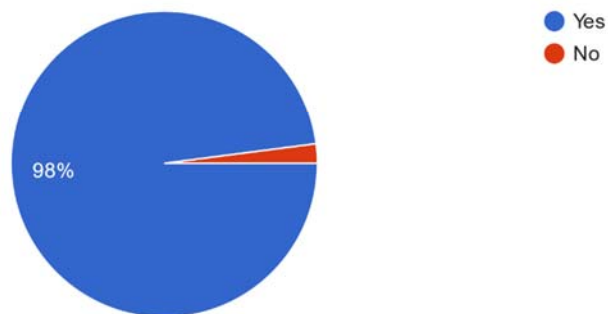
Year of Study in 2022/2023

49 responses



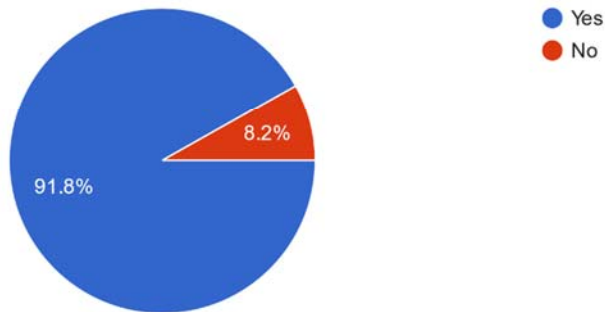
I am aware of the current PLF plan for the AY 2022-23.

49 responses



Do you support the current PLF plan for the AY 2022-23?

49 responses

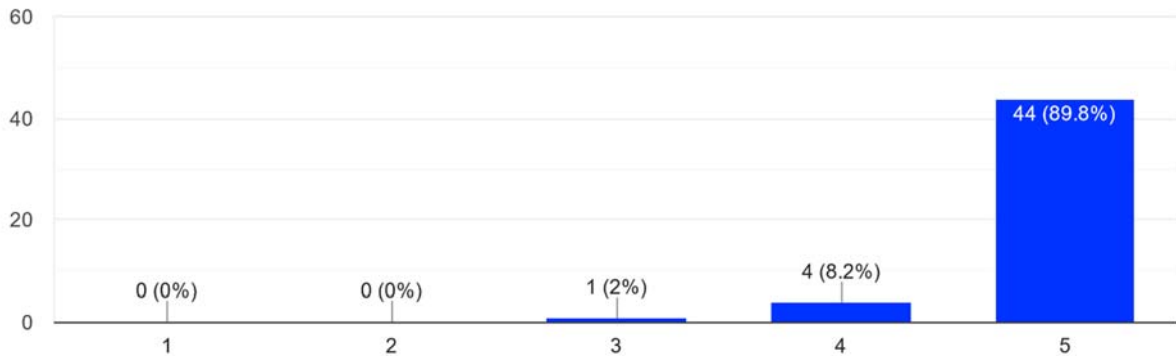


If you deem the current PLF structure to be unsatisfactory, you may propose changes. As per the Faculty of Arts & Science, it is possible to modify the current plans if there is a case for making a change and if the change is supported by majority of the graduate students. 2 responses

- *Still far below poverty line.*
- *Don't do the 100\$ for students in financial need. Just take the pool of money and divide it up equally because most students are in need of financial help anyway.*

For 2023-24, continue the support for an increase to program base funding. Current base funding is \$26,900 plus fees.

49 responses

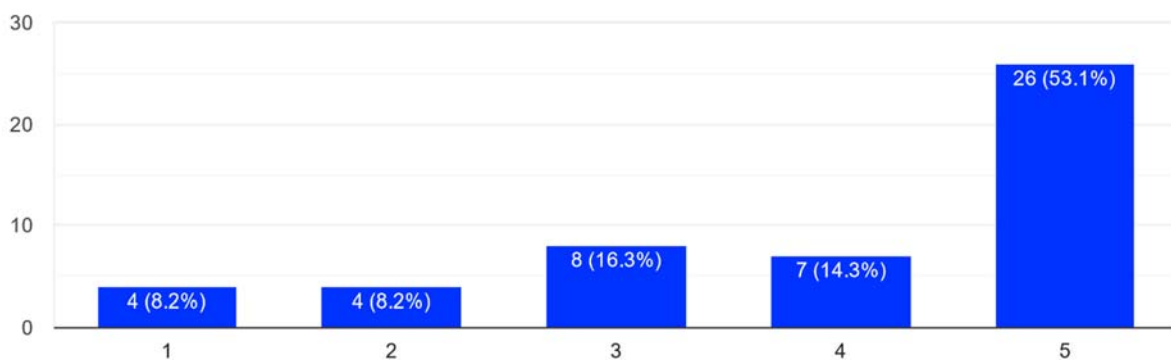


Constructive Comment(s), if any:6 responses

- *Unclear whether the \$900 will also go to award holders (OGS and NSERC). I believe there should be a \$900 increase for all.*
- *Even with multiple scholarship opportunities, base funding remains to be the most important factor to me for calculating future expenses, without having to rely on the chance (and not guarantee) of receiving a scholarship.*
- *This should include students with funding as well (CGS, NSERC ect.) because we get zero dollars from the department just because we got an award. This doesn't encourage students to apply for this awards because we end up getting the same amount of funding (compared to students with no awards) after paying our tuition.*
- *we're living below the minimum wage, this should be a priority*
- *Cost of living keeps going up, but student funding does not match that rate of increase.*
- *Rent is ~\$1500-~\$2000 for a bachelorette/bachelor in Toronto; if students only earn ~\$2000/month, this leaves very little money (if any) for living expenses. This prevents students form really saving any money, which is essential for when funding is cut prior to program completion for students writing their thesis, and after they defend their thesis but before they can find a job. Therefore, I believe there should be great emphasis placed on increasing the base funding for students who are forced to rent in Toronto and aren't fortunate enough to be able to commute. I argue this issue should be remedied through an increase in the base funding for students forced to rent, and not through financial aid programs such as OSOTF, because these programs are: 1) difficult to find/access, and 2) have extremely complicated and confusing application processes. Additionally, I believe these students who are struggling financially shouldn't have to bend over backwards to access financial aid that they are in need of, and that I believe the school owes them.*

For 2023-24, continue the support for students in particular financial need (eg. with dependent children, study permit holders and those ineligible for OSOTF).

49 responses



Constructive Comment(s), if any:

- *I believe that any increase in support for graduate students at the University of Toronto is welcome and deserved.*
- *only selective students benefit from this*
- *This money needs to be available for these students but not through this funding source.*
- *See above.*

Other recommendations. See current PLF plans by other grad units

<https://www.artsci.utoronto.ca/graduate/graduate-funding/program-level-fellowships>. (Please rate the importance and reasoning for each recommendation.) 2 responses

- *Equal share of \$1k sounds more reasonable than the other options. Also just because a student holds a major scholarship doesn't mean that they don't need this money from PLF.*

Insights or concerns regarding graduate funding or PLFs to be relayed to the Faculty of Arts & Science. 2 responses

- *All graduate funding should be increased.*
- *See above.*