

# Financial Aid Resources for Students in light of COVID-19

**From: Dionne Gesink, Acting Associate Dean, Academic Affairs**

## **Financial Aid Resources available to Students in light of COVID-19-Related Disruptions to Progress in their Programs**

Public Health Sciences faculty and staff are working to ensure that courses will continue to be offered with limited disruption as we move out of the classroom and respond to changing practicum and research environments. We understand that COVID-19-related disruptions might impact additional aspects of students' progress in their programs, e.g. delayed practicum placements, delayed/disrupted ethics approvals, suspended data collection, limited/loss of access to secondary datasets. In these situations, students may be faced with extending their program trajectories and thereby find that they need financial support.

**Students experiencing immediate financial hardship** should apply to the School of Graduate Studies [emergency loan](#) or [emergency grant](#). SGS is usually able to pay out emergency loans within 24-hours and emergency grants within one week.

**Emergency Loan:** [https://www.sgs.utoronto.ca/awards/sgs-emergency-loan/?utm\\_source=mailpoet&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_campaign=March+15+COVID-19+Message](https://www.sgs.utoronto.ca/awards/sgs-emergency-loan/?utm_source=mailpoet&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=March+15+COVID-19+Message) Loan applications are processed on an ongoing, continual basis throughout each academic session. Applications need to be submitted to the SGS Graduate Awards Office by 2 pm in order to be evaluated. A decision will be released within two business days upon receipt of the complete application by SGS.

**Emergency Grant:** [https://www.sgs.utoronto.ca/awards/sgs-emergency-grant/?utm\\_source=mailpoet&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_campaign=March+15+COVID-19+Message](https://www.sgs.utoronto.ca/awards/sgs-emergency-grant/?utm_source=mailpoet&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=March+15+COVID-19+Message). Grant applications appear to be ongoing (Fall, Winter, Summer). All of the applications will be reviewed and decisions will be communicated within two weeks upon receipt of a completed application (including all support documentation). Emergency Loans may be approved in the interim. The decision will be communicated via the student's official U of T email address unless reasonable alternate arrangements of notification are requested.

**Students anticipating intermediate or longer-term financial need** can apply for several awards offered by the University. Note that the application requirements and processes for

these awards are specific to each award, and that some of these awards apply to Research Program and Professional Program students.

- PHS OSOTF and Needs based awards: Deadline: TBA
- University-Wide Awards (some awards are needs-based): Deadline: May 15, 2020. Submit application materials to [awards.dlsph@utoronto.ca](mailto:awards.dlsph@utoronto.ca).
  - o <http://www.dlsph.utoronto.ca/students/current-students/student-awards-funding-opportunities/current-award-competitions/2020-2021-sgs-university-wide-awards/>
- Master's Completion: WINTER 2020 Application deadline: April 23, 2020
  - o <https://www.sgs.utoronto.ca/awards/%e2%80%8bmasters-completion-bursary-mcb/>
- Doctoral Completion Awards: Deadline: TBD
  - <https://www.sgs.utoronto.ca/awards/doctoral-completion-award-dca/>

In the event students do not qualify for these awards, PHS will consider offering financial aid to those with demonstrated need who are confronting program progress delays attributable to COVID-19-related disruptions. Applications for these funds will be considered on a case by case basis. Students are asked to prepare, and to send the following to Vinita ([awards.dlsph@utoronto.ca](mailto:awards.dlsph@utoronto.ca)):

- The OSOTF form
- A brief description of the delay, its relationship to the COVID-19 pandemic, and anticipated impacts on the student's program completion timelines (to the best of their ability).
- List of other sources of financial assistance applied for.

For all questions or concerns related to Financial Aid Resources, please contact Vinita ([awards.dlsph@utoronto.ca](mailto:awards.dlsph@utoronto.ca)).

### **Additional links to University of Toronto Awards/Scholarships & Additional Financial Aid/Assistance Resources:**

The School of Graduate Studies website provides links and advice on Financial Aid: <https://www.sgs.utoronto.ca/awards-funding/financial-aid-advising/>

School of Graduate Studies Awards: <https://www.sgs.utoronto.ca/awards/>

Financial Aid: <https://future.utoronto.ca/finances/financial-aid/>

Thank you,