



**University of Alberta  
Faculty of Medicine & Dentistry**

**LKS Sino-Canadian Exchange  
Program**

**Guide for  
Scholarships for graduate students  
in Standard Programs (Stream B)**

**2017-18**



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## Eligibility

The UAlberta–Shantou Steering Committee (Graduate Programs) has approved the following rules and regulations for Scholarships awarded to graduates of the 7-year Masters of Medicine program at Shantou University Medical College (SUMC).

- These awards are normally offered to graduates from the 7-year Masters of Medicine program at SUMC.
- These awards can only be held by students that have been admitted to doctoral studies with a supervisor with an academic appointment in the Faculty of Medicine and Dentistry (FoMD) at the University of Alberta (UAlberta).

### *Pre-selection criteria*

Each year, usually in the winter term, SUMC will pre-select a number of outstanding potential candidates who are eligible and able to start their program in the fall term of the same year.

Applicants are pre-selected by members of the UAlberta-Shantou Steering Committee (Graduate Programs) at SUMC. Every year, this committee will invite supervisors to sponsor those candidates they consider best suited for the LKS Sino-Canadian Exchange program – funded doctoral studies at UAlberta. Pre-selection by SUMC of potential candidates will be based on a stringent assessment of their:

1. previous academic background (Normally completion of a 7-year Masters of Medicine; under some circumstances, applicants that completed 3 years of Master of Science after 5 year of Bachelor of Medicine will be considered.)
2. academic performance,
3. research interest and competency
4. command of written and spoken English, communication skills,
5. attitude and motivation

Students deemed eligible for the Program will receive a confirmation letter from the Director of the Post-Graduate Office at SUMC. The Chair of the UA-Shantou Steering Committee (Graduate Programs) will be copied on this eligibility letter. This letter is only valid for one year. A student that wishes to delay entry into the program will have to re-apply in subsequent years. Students deemed eligible that choose to delay or not to enter the program must inform the UA-Shantou Steering Committee.

### *Admission*

The eligibility letter will allow the UAlberta committee to confirm funding to potential supervisors and graduate coordinators. Receipt of this confirmation letter is a requirement for the UAlberta committee to facilitate introductions to potential supervisors.

Eligible students will then be encouraged to identify one or more supervisors and then apply for admission into a graduate program in the FoMD at UAlberta. Details on admission requirements vary by programs and each student is advised to check the graduate studies web site of the FoMD.

<http://www.med.ualberta.ca/programs/graduatestudies>

More information on available supervisors can also be obtained from the following site:

<http://www.med.ualberta.ca/programs/graduatestudies/lks>

## Financial Information

### *Stipend and Tuition*

Full-time graduate students will receive a scholarship that provides a monthly stipend guaranteed to be not less than a minimum determined yearly by the UAlberta-Shantou Steering Committee (Graduate Programs). The minimum stipend for the academic year 2017-18 is \$25,000/year. This stipend is guaranteed for 4 years (48 months) but is contingent on demonstration of satisfactory progress as evaluated by the supervisor, UAlberta-Shantou Steering Committee and or other stakeholders of the program. The decision of the UAlberta-Shantou Steering Committee is final.

Tuition and fees will be paid directly through the MSGP-Shantou office.

The university will waive the graduate international differential fee (IDF) for students funded under the Li Ka Shing Sino-Canadian Exchange program. This waiver should apply to the entire length of the student's graduate program with the expectation that students complete their doctoral programs within 4 years on the UAlberta campus.

The supervisor will pay the stipend at a rate of at least \$25k per year for years beyond 4, if needed. Students will be responsible to cover their tuition and fees from that stipend.

### *External funding*

Students are encouraged to seek alternate sources of funding through competitive scholarships from the university and granting agencies. Students should contact the department offering their program of interest to find out how graduate students are supported. Additional information can be obtained from the web site of the Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research (<http://uofa.ualberta.ca/graduate-studies/awards-and-funding/scholarships>).

Students that receive an award >\$10,000 will receive an incentive supplement of \$3000. However, in such cases the value of stipend paid by the Li Ka Shing Sino-Canadian Exchange Program will be reduced in direct proportion to the value of the award received. The \$3000 annual supplement will be added to the combined stipend award and paid monthly to trainees in good standing for the duration of their external award.

Note that some external funders offer an incentive supplement rather than full payment of scholarship. In such cases, the Li Ka Shing Sino-Canadian Exchange will not provide an incentive and the value of the stipend award will not be adjusted, as long as the supplement remains below the \$10,000 limit for external funds.

### *Supplement for trainees with dependent children*

The UA-Shantou Steering Committee (Graduate Programs) approved starting May 2013 a supplement for trainees with dependent children living with them in Edmonton. This supplement will be provided upon application and submission of proof. The \$3000 annual supplement will be added to the stipend award and paid monthly to trainees in good standing for the duration of

their award while the dependent child lives with them in Edmonton. It is the responsibility of the trainee to inform the UA-Shantou Steering Committee (Graduate Programs) if the child no longer resides in Edmonton. Failure to do so may result in termination of the award.

An application form can be obtained upon request from the graduate program advisor in the Office of Research of the Faculty of Medicine & Dentistry (2-13 Heritage Medical Research Centre; (780) 492-9721; [fmdgrd@ualberta.ca](mailto:fmdgrd@ualberta.ca)).

### ***Payment at the end of the program***

Scholarships will be terminated when the trainee has successfully completed the requirements of his or her program; the award will be terminated on the last day of the month in which the thesis approval / program completion form has been submitted to the Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research.

The Li Ka Shing Sino-Canadian Exchange Program reserves the right to terminate the scholarship if the terms and conditions of the award are not met, or if there is evidence of unsatisfactory progress.

### ***Notification Responsibilities***

The trainee and their primary research supervisor are required to inform the Li Ka Shing Sino-Canadian Exchange Program in writing for any significant changes in the research program such as leaves or program completion. Notice should be sent to the graduate program advisor in the Office of Research of the Faculty of Medicine & Dentistry (2-13 Heritage Medical Research Centre; (780) 492-9721; [fmdgrd@ualberta.ca](mailto:fmdgrd@ualberta.ca)).

## LEAVES OF ABSENCE

### *A note on Leaves of Absence*

Leaves of Absence can be obtained both from your academic program and from your funder, the Li Ka Shing Sino-Canadian Exchange Program. All leave requests should be sent to the graduate program advisor in the Office of Research of the Faculty of Medicine & Dentistry (2-13 Heritage Medical Research Centre; (780) 492-9721; [fmdgrd@ualberta.ca](mailto:fmdgrd@ualberta.ca)). The following focuses on leaves from the Li Ka Shing Sino-Canadian Exchange Program. For information related to leaves from your graduate program, please consult section 7.11 of the FGSR Graduate Program Manual [here](#).

### *Medical/parental Leaves of Absence from the Li Ka Shing Sino-Canadian Program*

If you need to suspend your thesis work, you must inform the UA-Shantou Steering Committee (Graduate Programs) so that it can temporarily stop stipend payment. Awardees may receive up to six months of unpaid medical/parental leave. The start/end dates for a leave from the Li Ka Shing Sino-Canadian Exchange Program do not have to align with the University's term system. If possible, supervisors are encouraged to pay a stipend during all or part of the leave. You should discuss this possibility with your supervisor.

Your request must be accompanied by a letter from a registered medical doctor, or service provider as the case may be, as well as a letter of support from the supervisor and the department. In the case of parental leaves, such request should be submitted 4 months prior to the start of the leave. Documentation submitted to support an application for a leave of absence on medical grounds must contain, at a minimum, the student's name, as well as complete contact information for the physician or nurse practitioner; an indication of how long the physician or nurse practitioner has been treating you; a clear statement by the physician or nurse practitioner justifying your inability to perform your academic duties, with start and end dates.

The UA-Shantou Steering Committee recognizes the confidential nature of the provided information. For this reason, requests for medical/parental leaves will be reviewed only by its Chair who will consider each request on a case-by-case basis.

### *Compassionate Leaves of Absence from the Li Ka Shing Sino-Canadian Program*

Unpaid leaves of absence of up to six months may be also granted on compassionate grounds following a formal request to the UA-Shantou Steering Committee (Graduate Programs) outlining the purpose of the leave. The support of the supervisor and the department is required. The UA-Shantou Steering Committee (Graduate Programs) will consider each request on a case-by-case basis.

### *Return from a leave*

Following a leave, and upon the request of the trainee and supervisor, the term of the award will be extended by an amount of time equal to the duration of the leave. Time added to the award is a maximum of 6 months. The UA-Shantou Steering Committee (Graduate Programs) reserves the right to terminate the award should the student not return to work after the approved leave of absence.

## Observerships

### *A note on Observerships*

Students nearing completion of the requirements for their PhD will be allowed to apply to complete an observership with a specialist in their specific field. Such observerships should help bridge graduate studies in Edmonton and return to hospital duties in Shantou. The Faculty of Medicine and Dentistry cannot guarantee placement. Your supervisor should be able to help with arrangements for a suitable observership. Ensure that you leave ample time for making such arrangements.

Participating observers are not required to be registered with, or hold a Practice Permit issued by, the College of Physicians & Surgeons of Alberta (CPSA) to undertake this experience. The proposed observership will follow FOIP guidelines and adhere to the Medical Practice Observation/Experience set out by the CPSA.

For FOIP information see: <http://www.cpsa.ca/standardspractice/patient-records/>

### *Eligibility*

Applicants must be Masters of Medicine graduates of SUMC and have completed all the requirements of their PhD programs by the time they initiate their observership. Those requirements include submission of the final revised thesis. Only trainees with a hospital position in Shantou are eligible for observership support.

### *Length*

The length of each observership will depend largely on arrangements made by the student and his/her preceptor. The maximum length of financial support by the Li Ka Shing Sino-Canadian Exchange Program has been set at 2 months.

### *Financial Support*

Students participating in an observership will receive financial subsidy for costs of living expenses. The level of monthly support will be identical to the monthly stipend paid by the Program for PhD students. The value as of June 2016 is set at \$1833.33 per month. Application forms for the subsidy can be obtained upon request from the Office of Research of the Faculty of Medicine & Dentistry (2-13 Heritage Medical Research Centre; (780) 492-9721; [fmdgrd@ualberta.ca](mailto:fmdgrd@ualberta.ca)).

### *Supplement for trainees with dependent children*

The UA-Shantou Steering Committee (Graduate Programs) approved starting May 2013 a supplement for trainees with dependent children living with them in Edmonton. If the candidate for an observership has been receiving the child supplement as a PhD student, this will continue through the observership. If needed, application forms for the supplement can be obtained upon request from the Office of Research of the Faculty of Medicine & Dentistry (2-13 Heritage Medical Research Centre; (780) 492-9721; [fmdgrd@ualberta.ca](mailto:fmdgrd@ualberta.ca)).