

School of Fisheries, Fisheries Science Graduate Program

SGS Baseline Allocation Principles

Last revision: April 25, 2017

The School of Graduate Studies allocates funds to all academic units with graduate programs to be paid to graduate students (hereafter: SGS baseline). SGS provides guidelines on eligibility, decisions on which students get funded, and to what extent, are left up to the academic unit.

This document provides guidance to the Academic Advisory Committee (AAC) on how to reach decisions about baseline funding disbursements. By articulating these principles in writing, we hope to provide transparency in decision-making processes within the SOF.

If there are any conflicts between these principles and SGS Guidelines, the SGS Guidelines take precedence. This document is subject to revision at any time.

Principles:

- SGS Baseline funds allocated to the SOF support full-time students enrolled in the M.Sc Fisheries Science (Fisheries Science and Technology), M.Sc Fisheries Science (Stock Assessment), and Ph.D Fisheries Science programs. These funds may not support students in other programs.
- Decisions on allocations are made by the AAC. Decisions will be made by simple majority (i.e. more than 50%) vote, but every effort will be made to achieve consensus.
- There is no guarantee that a student will receive baseline funding when they apply to the program.
- Funding will normally be allocated to M.Sc students for two years, and to Ph.D students for four years (and to receive funds, they must maintain eligibility).
- The following values should underpin allocation decisions:
 - o The primary purpose of baseline funding is to grow the program, and enable us to take on more students than we would be able to in absence of the funds.
 - o Our goal is for every student in the program to achieve the minimum annual financial support target (\$17,500 for M.Sc, \$19,000 for Ph.D from all sources).
 - o SGS baseline funds should first be allocated to students that are below the minimum funding target. If additional money is available, then top-ups are acceptable.
 - o Baseline funds should broadly be allocated so that all core faculty in the SOF can benefit – they should not normally be concentrated among the students of a minority of supervisors.

- Any changes to a student's SGS Baseline funding amount should be communicated well in advance to the student and supervisor.
- SGS Baseline funding should never be removed for punitive reasons, provided the student remains eligible to receive funds.

Procedures

In their application to the graduate school, students will indicate whether they are in need of baseline funds. The AAC may follow up with that student's prospective supervisor to discuss the student's funding plan.

If an eligible student is already enrolled in the program and they need to apply for baseline funds, their supervisor should alert the AAC and explain the student's funding situation and why they need this support.

Normal Value

Normally, students will receive up to one-third of an annual stipend from SGS Baseline funds in one fiscal year. This corresponds to a value of $(\$17,500 / 3)$ \$5,833.33 for M.Sc students and $(\$19,000 / 3)$ \$6,333.33 for Ph.D students.

In some cases, students on baseline support will subsequently receive a scholarship, or their supervisors may wish to increase their grant-funded stipend. In this case, we will allocate baseline funds as follows:

M.Sc student earning < \$25,000 pa from all sources: \$5,833.33

M.Sc student earning between \$25,000 and \$35,000 pa from all sources: \$2,916.67*

Ph.D student earning < \$35,000 pa from all sources: \$6,333.33

Ph.D student earning between \$35,000 and \$50,000 pa from all sources: \$3,166.67*

*Top-up funding from baseline cannot push student income above \$35,000 pa for M.Sc students, \$50,000 pa for Ph.D students.

Commented [BF1]: Pro: Promotes fairness and equality in income, frees up \$\$ to allocate to other students

Con: Pain to manage. One more thing to keep track of.

Illustrative Examples

Student A is a Ph.D student who has been offered baseline funding at \$6,333.33 pa for four years. Six months into their program, they receive an NSERC CGS-D award, valued at \$35,000 pa. This triggers the issuance of a \$5,000 Dean's Excellence Award.

Since their total scholarship income would reach \$40,000 pa, their Baseline funding would be reduced to \$3,166.67 pa.

$$\$35,000 \text{ (NSERC)} + \$5,000 \text{ (Dean's Excellence award)} + \$3,166.67 \text{ (Baseline)} = \$43,166.67$$

Student B is a M.Sc student, offered baseline funding at \$5,833.33 pa for two years. Their supervisor offers \$15,000 in grant funding.

Their total income from all sources would be \$20,833.33. Their baseline funding would *not* be reduced because they are making below \$25,000.

$$\$15,000 \text{ (Grant)} + \$5,833.33 \text{ (Baseline)} = \$20,833.33 \text{ pa}$$

Student C is a Ph.D student who has been collecting baseline funding for two years at \$6,333.33 pa. The student applies to many scholarships, and by the third year, has amassed \$47,000 in scholarships for the remainder of their program.

In this scenario, their baseline support would drop to \$3,000 pa, so as to keep them under the maximum level of support for Ph.D students.

$$\$47,000 \text{ (Scholarships)} + \$3,000 \text{ (Baseline)} = \$50,000 \text{ pa}$$