

UNIVERSITY
of GUELPH



IMPROVE LIFE.

Student Financial Support Annual Report 2016-17

Total Financial Aid:
**\$41.5
million**





Background

The University of Guelph maintains a strong and evolving commitment to the financial support of its undergraduate and graduate students. With the rising costs of education, providing support for qualified students with financial barriers is a high priority. We also provide merit-based awards to attract high-calibre students that enhance our academic reputation, support our world-class research, and enrich the diversity and quality of the educational experience for all. Bursaries, scholarships, and need-based scholarships from the University do not need to be repaid and can be complemented by financial support through the Work Study Program, Undergraduate Research Assistantships, Graduate Teaching Assistantships, and Graduate Research Assistantships.

The appendix includes a glossary of the terms used throughout this report. The information provided in this report refers to undergraduate and graduate students at the University of Guelph and Ridgetown campus. Guelph-Humber has been excluded.

In recent years, the importance of student financial assistance has pointed to the need for greater understanding on the part of key University stakeholders regarding the access to and delivery of student financial support. At the same time, the province has undertaken a major restructuring of the Ontario Student Assistance Program (OSAP) and made a commitment to informing students as early as possible about net tuition, which is the cost of tuition after non-repayable aid has been applied.

Financial aid is key to the success of our students and to our enrolment management success as an institution. In 2016/17, the University allocated \$41.5 million to students through our award and financial aid programs.

Contents

Background	2
Overview of Student Support	4
Types of Financial Support	7
Merit-Based Awards	7
Need-Based Awards	9
International Student Support	14
Graduate Student Support	15
Total Support from the University	16
Government Programs	17
Non-Financial Supports	20
Conclusion	21
Appendix: Glossary of Terms	22

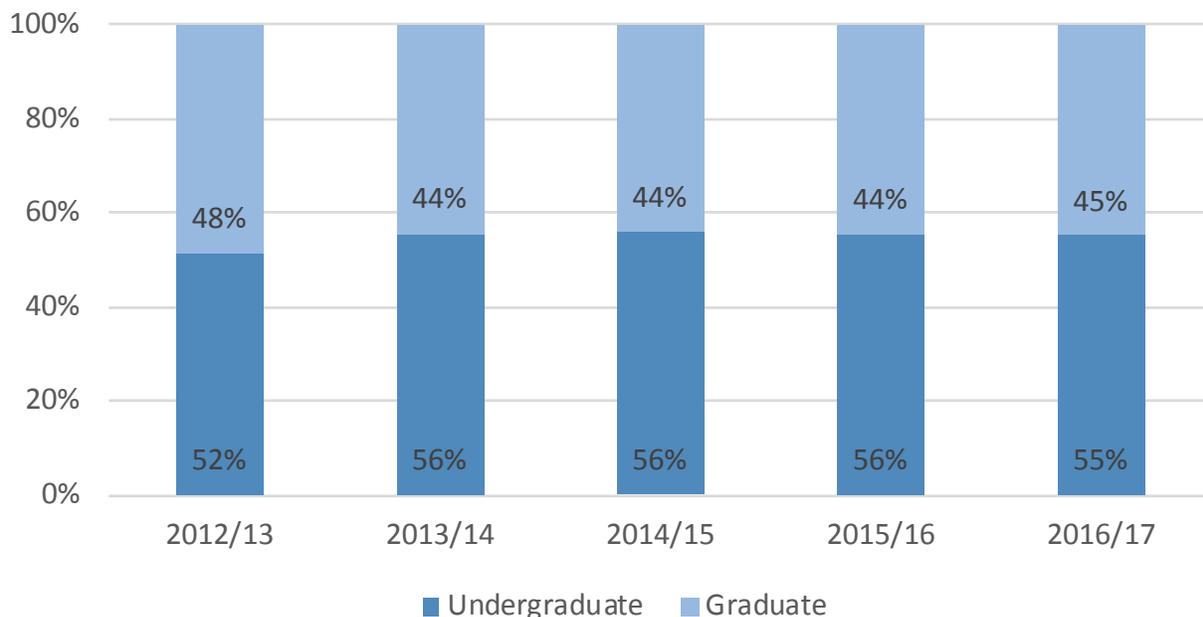
The purpose of this report is to provide stakeholders with an annual review of how the University is financially supporting its students. It includes facts and figures as well as descriptions about the different approaches to distribute funds. It is intended to allow stakeholders to understand the University's overall strategy and examine the trends and patterns over time.

TABLE 1: Total scholarships and bursaries by program level in \$millions. (Need-based category includes Work Study and URA.)

	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17
Need-Based, Undergraduate	8.66	10.19	10.43	11.50	12.24
Merit-Based, Undergraduate	8.16	9.09	9.20	9.56	10.64
Total Undergraduate	16.82	19.28	19.63	21.06	22.88
Need-Based, Graduate	3.57	3.50	3.57	3.84	4.06
Merit-Based, Graduate	12.27	11.90	11.95	13.03	14.59
Total Graduate	15.84	15.40	15.52	16.87	18.65
Total Scholarships and Bursaries	32.66	34.68	35.15	37.93	41.52

FIGURE 1

Allocation of Student Aid



Overview of Student Support

Objectives of Student Support

Our fundamental principle is that all qualified individuals should be able to attend university regardless of their financial status. We accomplish this objective by working in partnership with government, donors, and students. We are proud of our innovative financial aid programs that are specifically geared to ensuring an accessible, top-quality education for all students.

We believe that an education should be an attainable goal for all qualified students. This is the University of Guelph's **Guarantee to Accessible University Education**.

How Students Access Support

The University of Guelph has demonstrated its commitment to the financial needs of its students by simplifying and enhancing the scholarship and award process.

- The majority of scholarships offered at the University do not require an application from the student. Students are automatically selected based on attributes such as academic program or grade point average (GPA).
- Students eligible for government assistance programs complete a simple one-page bursary form and Student Financial Services uses the information provided by the government to determine eligibility.
- Standardized budgets that recognize reasonable costs are used to determine non-eligible government aid students in an effort to treat students equitably.
- Standardized award deadlines are set to simplify the award process for students, such as April 15th for potential incoming students.
- Students are reminded in advance of award application deadlines by email, through our website, and on social media to ensure they are included in the awarding process.

Student Support Profile

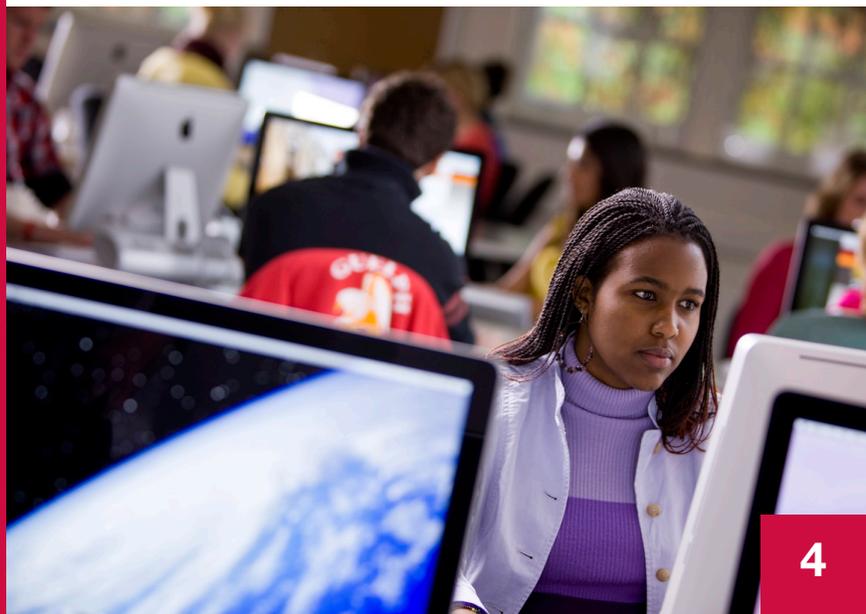
Caitlin is a dependent student who is in her third year of the Bachelor of Arts program. She was registered full-time during the fall and winter semesters. Caitlin submitted a Need Assessment Form and was given an institutional and a donor bursary, along with approval to participate in the Work Study program during her winter semester. She was also recognized for her academics and leadership with an H.H. Harshman Foundation scholarship.

Tuition & Fees	<u>\$7,627</u>
OSAP Grants	\$4,700
Institutional Bursary	\$3,000
Institutional Scholarships	\$3,000
Non-Repayable Aid	<u>\$10,700</u>
OSAP Loan	<u>\$6,900</u>
Total Funding	<u>\$17,600</u>

NET TUITION (-\$3,073)

(Tuition & Fees - Non-Repayable Aid = Net Tuition)

Net Tuition: Caitlin's tuition and fee expense was effectively reduced to (-\$3,073) after subtracting non-repayable aid. In other words, she is owed \$3,073. While at school, the interest that accrued on Caitlin's loans was paid by the government.



Funding Sources

There are two major funding sources that are utilized to support the University's award programs.

Operating Fund:

- **Institutional** funding is used to provide students with scholarships, bursaries, and need-based employment opportunities throughout the student's academic career. The University provided operating funds to support students in the amount of \$18.3 million in 2016/17 in addition to the TSA.
- **Tuition Set Aside (TSA)** funding is mandated by the government of Ontario. It requires that each post-secondary institution set aside a portion of tuition fee revenue to assist eligible students (Canadian citizens/permanent residents/protected persons) in financial need. University of Guelph students accessed \$10.2 million in TSA in 2016/17.

Endowments and Trusts:

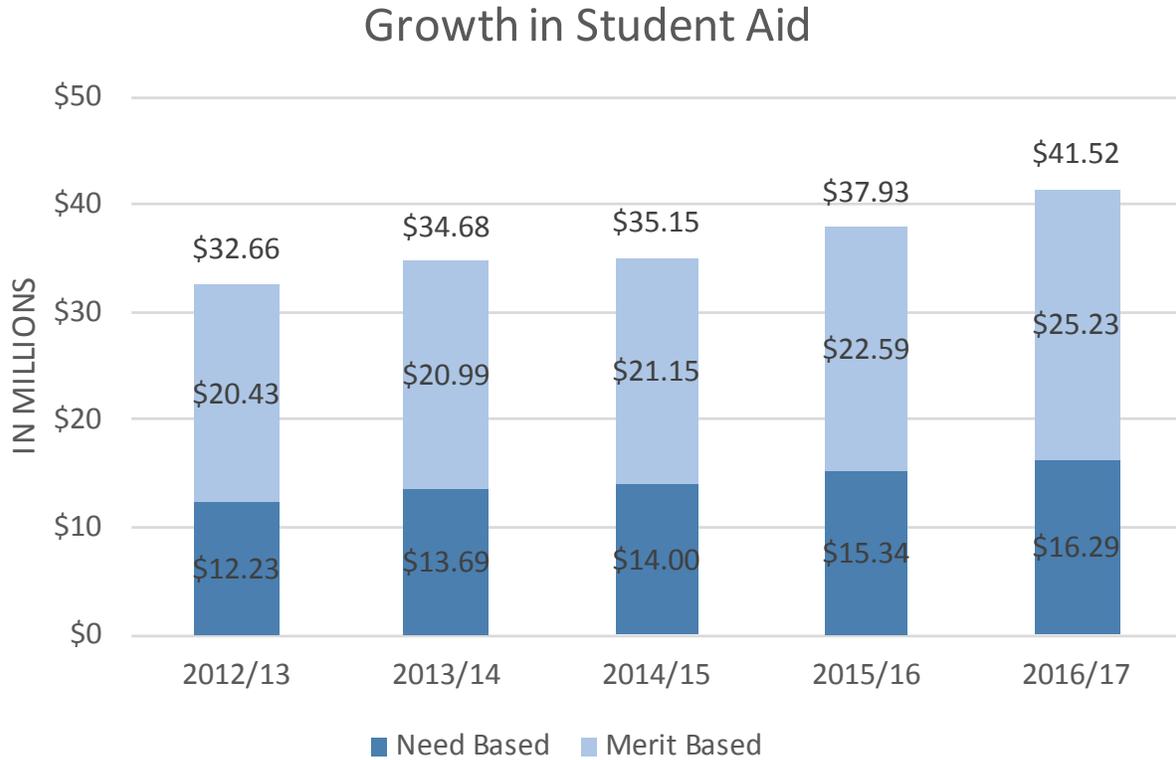
- **Donor-funded awards** are either annual gifts based upon a donor agreement **or** endowed donations that are invested in perpetuity and only the earnings are spent. During 2016/17, donors supported \$8.8 million in awards.
- **Government external awards** from the Tri-Council government research agencies, Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council (NSERC), Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council (SSHRC), Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR), the Ontario Graduate Fellowships (OGF) and Scholarship (OGS) programs, provided graduate students with \$3.9 million in scholarships.

Table 2 (below) and Figure 2 (page 6) show the distribution of funding by program level and funding sources. Increases in undergraduate support are focused in needs-based programs while graduate awards, in recent years, have been mainly for merit-based programs designed to attract high-quality students in an increasingly competitive environment.

TABLE 2: Total scholarships and bursaries by funding source in \$millions.

	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17
Operating Fund, Undergraduate	13.99	15.97	16.40	17.54	19.14
Operating Fund, Graduate	9.10	7.67	7.52	7.71	9.50
Total Operating Fund	23.09	23.64	23.92	25.25	28.63
Endowment and Trust, Undergraduate	2.83	3.31	3.23	3.52	3.74
Endowment and Trust, Graduate	6.74	7.73	8.00	9.16	9.15
Total Endowment and Trust	9.57	11.04	11.23	12.68	12.89
Total Scholarships and Bursaries	32.66	34.68	35.15	37.93	41.52

FIGURE 2



Financial Aid Programs

Student assistance in Ontario is complex and multi-layered. For students with financial need it begins with OSAP assessments that are determined by the province through the Ministry of Advanced Education and Skills Development (MAESD). Rules for calculating need are typically income based, and the resulting grants/loans are administered through each post-secondary institution.

The University of Guelph has partnered with MAESD to support access to post-secondary education through the Student Access Guarantee (SAG). Students with unmet need, as calculated by MAESD through OSAP assessments, will automatically receive a bursary.

SAG ensures that students in need will have access to the resources they require for their tuition, books, and mandatory fees. SAG requirements do not include actual living costs and covering these costs is at the discretion of the institution. The

University demonstrates its dedication to accessible education and its students by going beyond the SAG requirements by providing aid for living expenses, along with further assistance when students experience unexpected financial shortfalls through the University's bursary program. Our Work Study

and Undergraduate Research Assistantship programs are offered exclusively to students who demonstrate financial need.

Through our wide range of financial aid programs, we aim to ensure that students complete their degrees, regardless of their financial circumstances.

Types of Financial Supports

Merit-Based Awards

The University of Guelph is committed to rewarding the academic excellence and outstanding achievements of our incoming and continuing students. Scholarships may be awarded based upon outstanding academic achievement only or academic achievement in combination with other factors. These include demonstrated financial need or extracurricular activities such as volunteer work, leadership qualities, or involvement in sports or clubs.

of \$3,000 (Admission Average ≥ 90.0) or \$2,000 (Admission Average $\geq 85.0 < 90.0$). This academic year, 2,480 registered students received an entrance scholarship, which is a 30% increase since 2012/13. Figure 3 provides a five-year view of the entrance merit scholarship program and indicates that there is continual growth in the uptake of potential students.

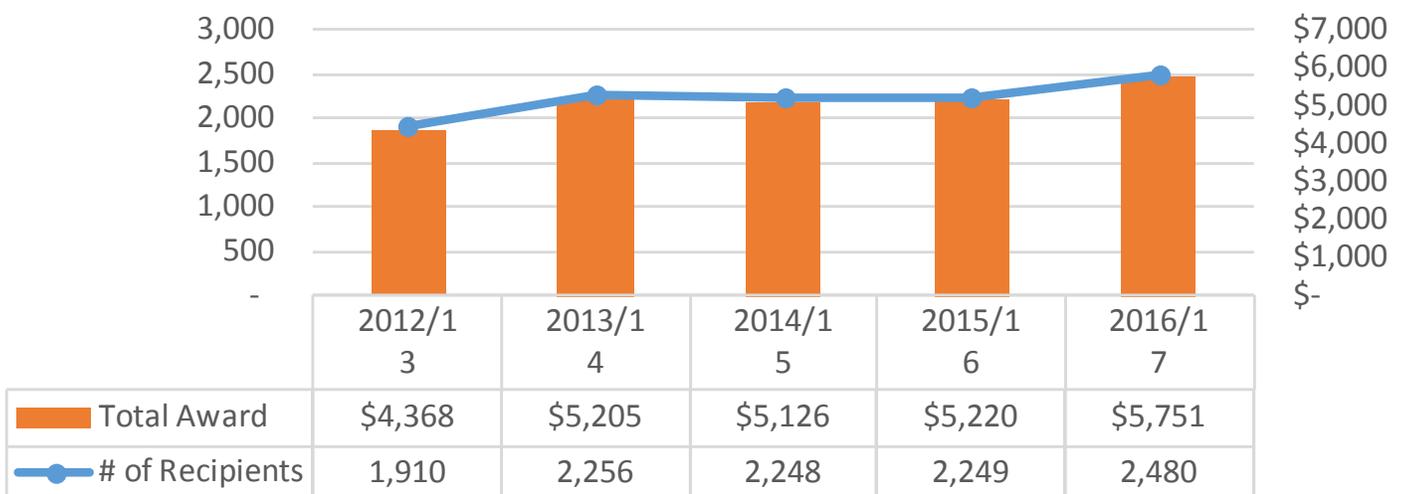
The President's Scholarships, Chancellors' Scholarships, and Lincoln Alexander Chancellor's scholarships were created to help attract students who are academically strong and are demonstrating significant leadership. These awards require an application from the student and references. They provide \$33,000 over four years of study, a summer research assistantship position in the amount of \$9,000, and a mentor. There are currently forty students studying at the University of Guelph with President's, Chancellors', and Lincoln Alexander scholarships.

Entrance Scholarships

Many undergraduate entrance scholarships are awarded automatically based on the student's admission average and are included with the offer of admission. Entrance scholarships are available to both domestic and international students. Prospective students are assessed at the time of offer for either a one-time scholarship

FIGURE 3

Entrance Merit Scholarships Institutionally Funded



The University has partnered with the Loran Scholars Foundation in the support of young Canadians who demonstrate strong character, service, and the promise of leadership. The University provides a scholarship in the value equal to the student's tuition as well as personal support to help students acclimatize themselves to the expectations of the Loran program. In 2016, there were 33 Loran scholars selected from across Canada and one of these scholars chose the University of Guelph as their institution of study. Currently, the University has six Loran scholars.

Megan Smith, Loran Scholar:

"I chose Guelph because it offered an **accredited** biomedical engineering program (and the reputation of the best campus food in Canada). Today I love Guelph for the **vibrant**, student-led campus culture that **cares deeply** about social rights, environmental impact and the broader world around us. Students can **easily balance** hobbies and academic interests outside their own discipline. In my first year, I lived in Arts House, one of Guelph's themed residences, where I was able to **foster my love** of painting and music alongside my engineering studies. Guelph has become a home I will always look forward to coming back to."

In-Course Scholarships

In 2016/17, the University of Guelph awarded more than \$3.7 million in upper year (in-course) scholarships to undergraduate students and \$4.7 million to registered graduate students. The University's scholarships for in-course students are generally based on academic merit. Most of our upper year scholarships are available to international students, however some restrictions apply.

Typically, applications are not required for merit scholarships. However, some scholarships also have a need-based component, so students are required to complete a financial "Need Assessment Form" (NAF). If the scholarship has an additional requirement of extra-curricular activities, students will be required to provide documentation to support these activities, such as a resume or a letter of support.

To recognize the outstanding achievements of current and incoming students, in such areas as academics, leadership, volunteerism, and extra-curricular activities, we offer **1,216 scholarships** to diploma, undergraduate, and graduate students. These awards serve to both acknowledge past achievements and encourage further study and accomplishment.



Need-Based Awards

Bursaries

The University of Guelph's bursary program supports students whose financial needs, such as tuition and compulsory fees, books, and living expenses, are not fully addressed by OSAP or other government programs. In 2016/17, the University awarded \$12.5 million in need-based awards to undergraduate and graduate students. The University has further demonstrated its commitment to the financial needs of its students by simplifying and enhancing the bursary process:

- OSAP & Out-of-Province Program eligible students complete a one-page bursary form indicating their intent to register for the academic year. They are not required to provide supporting financial documentation, instead the University utilizes the verified MAESD student funding shortfall calculations;

- Bursary applications are accepted from students who are not eligible to apply for OSAP or Out-of-Province assistance. Financial need is determined using a standardized expenditure budget which recognizes reasonable costs in an effort to treat students equitably;
- Bursaries are applied to the student's winter semester account in advance of the payment deadline date so that students are aware of their net financial obligation;
- Bursary applications are accepted on an ongoing basis, allowing us to address the needs of the student as they arise;
- Financial aid counsellors provide assistance navigating government aid programs, understanding appeals for extenuating financial circumstance, and enhancing financial literacy skills;
- Need-based assessments are completed by Student Financial Services to ensure transparency, consistency, and protection of personal financial information.

Student Support Profile

Julian is a sole-support parent of three children, and he is a fourth-year student in the Bachelor of Applied Sciences.

Tuition & Fees	<u>\$7,386</u>
OSAP Grants	\$7,265
Institutional Bursary	\$6,700
Institutional Scholarships	\$500
Non-Repayable Aid	<u>\$14,465</u>
OSAP Loan	<u>\$18,200</u>
Total Funding	<u><u>\$32,665</u></u>

NET TUITION (-\$7,079)

(Tuition & Fees - Non-Repayable Aid = Net Tuition)

Net Tuition: Julian's tuition and fee expense was effectively reduced to (-\$7,079) after subtracting non-repayable aid. He is owed \$7,079. While at school, the interest that accrued on Julian's loans was paid by the government. At the end of the 2016-17 study period, Julian's OSAP loan was reduced by \$10,700 to \$7,500.

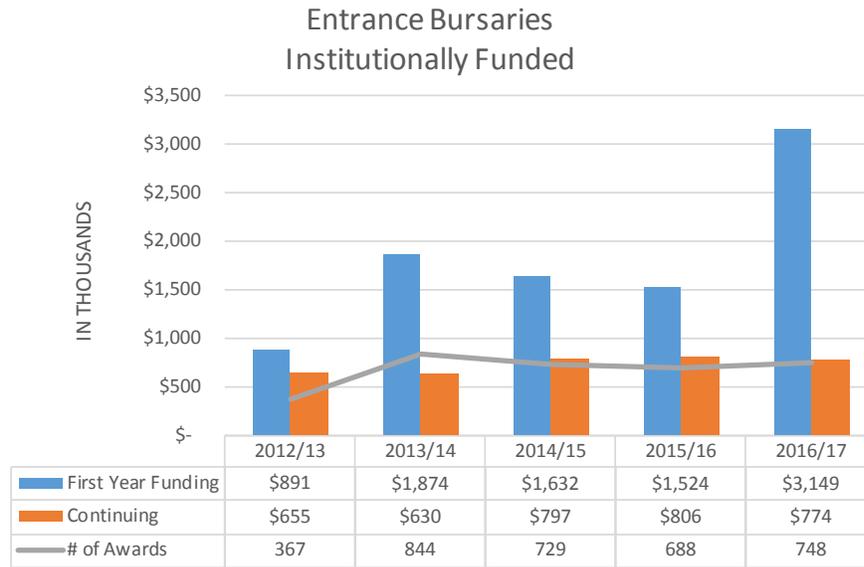
He also received the Gold Medallion for Leadership Excellence, which included a \$500 award, in recognition of his significant leadership contributions to his program.



Entrance Bursaries

In support of incoming undergraduate students who demonstrate financial need, we offer multi-year entrance bursaries. Each year, the University of Guelph awards 200 students identified as having the greatest financial need a multi-year bursary valued at \$14,000, payable over four years of study. These bursaries are packaged with Work Study approval, allowing students to plan their finances accordingly for four years. In addition, the University provides 500 more students with a one-time, \$4,000 Registrar's entrance bursary.

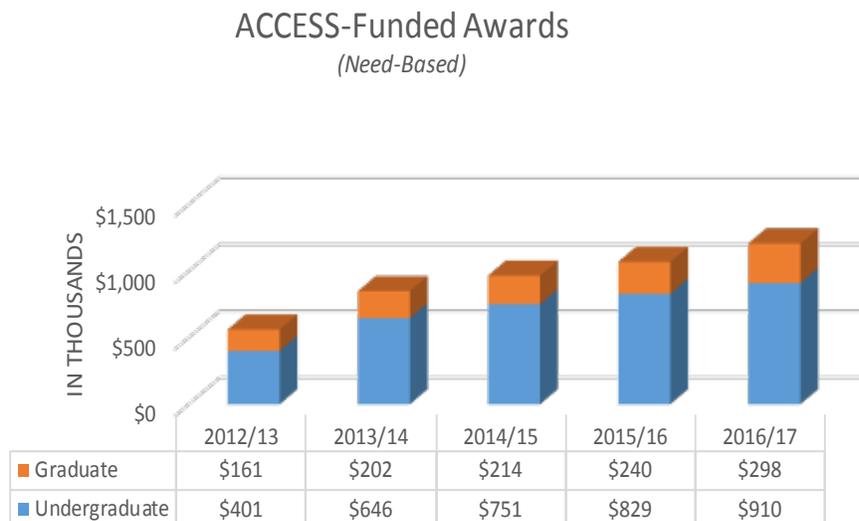
FIGURE 4



ACCESS Awards

The University offers a number of ACCESS awards, established through generous donor contributions and matched by the provincial government's Ontario Student Opportunity Trust Fund (OSOTF) program and the Ontario Trust for Student Support (OTSS). OSOTF and OTSS was a fundraising program that was initiated in 1999 and ceased in 2012. The income generated from these endowments are used to support various financial aid programs, including bursaries, need-based scholarships, and travel grants. To be eligible, students must be a Canadian citizen or permanent resident and meet the Ontario residency requirements as mandated by the OTSS/OSOTF program.

FIGURE 5



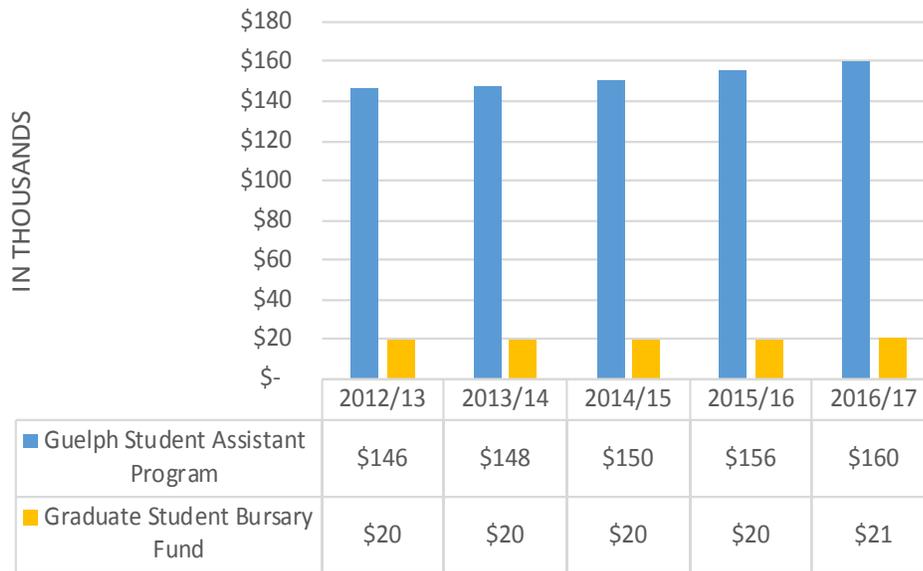
Student-Funded Bursaries

Diploma, undergraduate, and graduate students at the University of Guelph have established bursaries to assist students in financial need. These funds are supported through a portion of their compulsory fees.

Diploma and undergraduate students created the Guelph Student Assistance Program and the Guelph Student Assistance ACCESS Bursaries; the latter is matched with funding from OTSS. Preference for these bursaries is given to students who are not eligible for provincial and/or federal assistance programs.

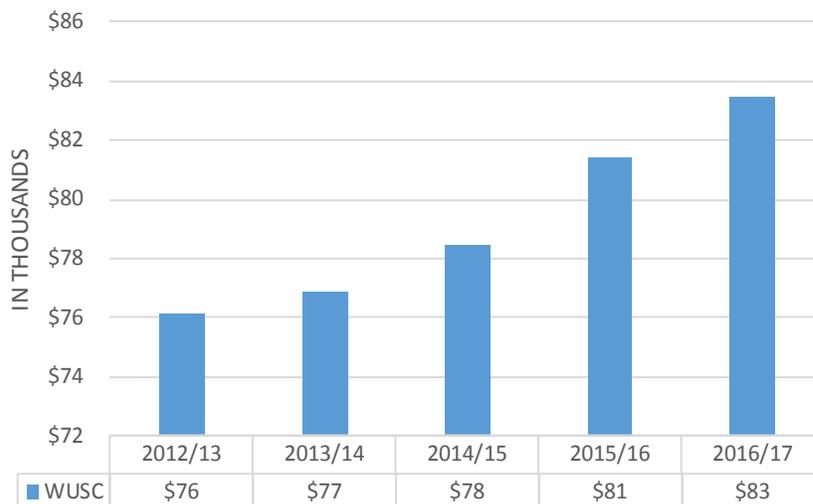
Graduate students created the Graduate Student Compassionate Bursary Fund. It is available to cover costs associated with unexpected emergency/compassionate circumstances, up to \$2,000.

FIGURE 6 Student Contributions to Need Based Awards



In addition to bursaries, undergraduate students on the Guelph campus contribute to the World University Service of Canada (WUSC) through their compulsory fees. These donations support the sponsorship of students from refugee camps. Up to three students are admitted to the University of Guelph each year through the program. Student contributions cover the incidental fees of first-year students in the WUSC program. The University also provides free tuition for the full term of their degree and, for their first two semesters, free residence accommodation and meal plan.

FIGURE 7 World University Service Canada

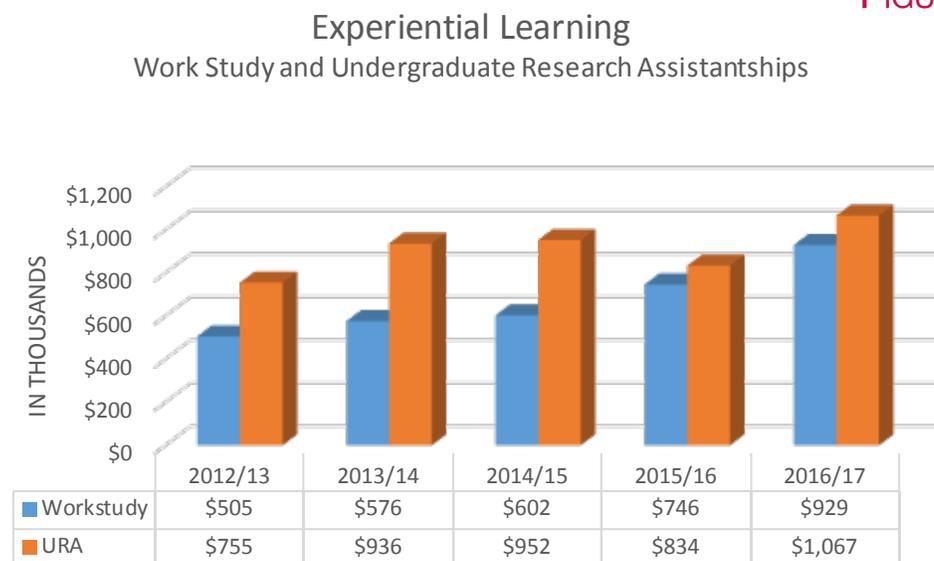


Work Study and Undergraduate Research Assistantship Programs

The aim of the Work Study and Undergraduate Research Assistantship (URA) programs is to help students with demonstrated financial need meet their education costs, while benefitting from experiential learning. Through the Work Study program, students work part time (10 -15 hours per week) on campus during the academic year. Our Work Study program is a collaborative effort between Student Financial Services and departments across the University. The Work Study program is a cost-share program with TSA funds providing 75% to a pre-determined maximum and the hiring department funding the remainder. International students can apply for the International Work Study program which is funded from institutional funds.

The URA program is a competitive program that provides full-time, on-campus summer research opportunities to undergraduate students with demonstrated financial need, who are Canadian citizens or permanent residents. Students gain invaluable research experience working under the direction of faculty or administrators while expanding their knowledge and understanding of their current field of study. Currently, there are 150 URA positions available across campus funded from TSA.

FIGURE 8



Support for Crown Wards

Since 2013/14, the University of Guelph has partnered with the Ministry of Advanced Education and Skills Development (MAESD) to help fund tuition costs for Crown Wards and youth who are in or leaving the care of Children’s Aid Societies. Through this program, MAESD covers the first 50% of tuition fees for the student, up to a maximum of \$3,000, with the Ontario Access Grant for Crown Wards and the 30% Off Ontario Tuition Grant. The University funds the remaining 50% through an institutional bursary, up to a maximum of \$3,000.

Full-time undergraduate students enrolled in their first degree or diploma are eligible for funding for up to four years. Students automatically qualify based on the information provided through their OSAP application.

In 2016/17, nine Crown Ward students received bursaries from the University for a total of \$29,000.

While MAESD has cancelled this grant effective 2017/18, the University will continue to fund currently registered Crown Ward students for the remainder of their four-year eligibility.

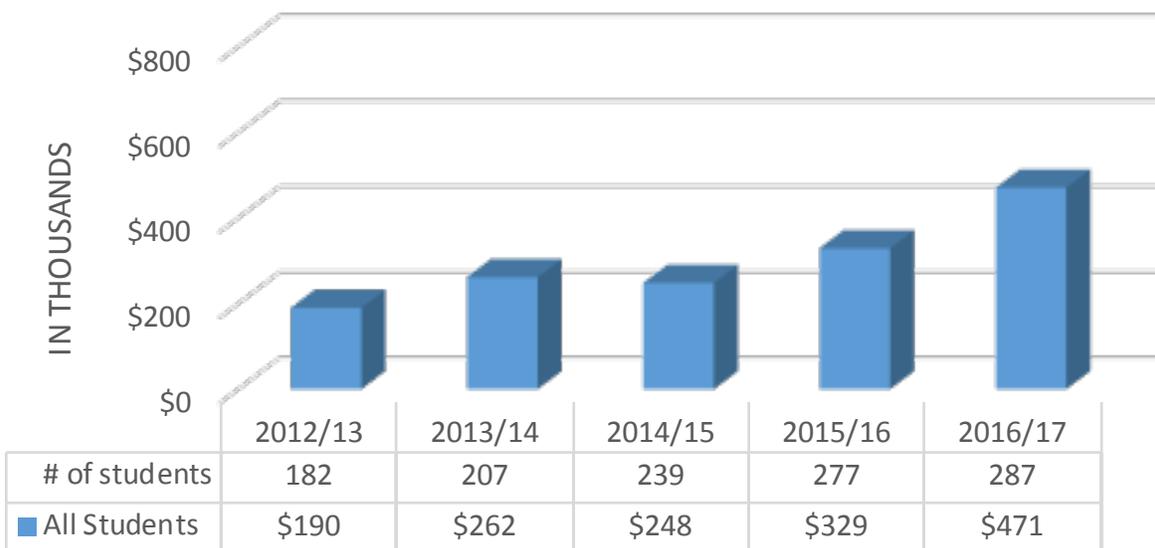


Travel Grants

Travel grants provide funding opportunities for undergraduate and graduate students to experience diverse cultures, communities, languages, and natural environments. Students participating in an Exchange Program or Semester Abroad, or travelling for a conference, field course, or co-op work term related to their program of study can apply. They can use these travel grants to offset costs associated with travelling such as airfare, vaccinations, and travel insurance. There are over 50 travel grants available to undergraduate students and over 30 for graduate students. Some of these grants include a financial need component.

FIGURE 9

Travel Grants All Funds



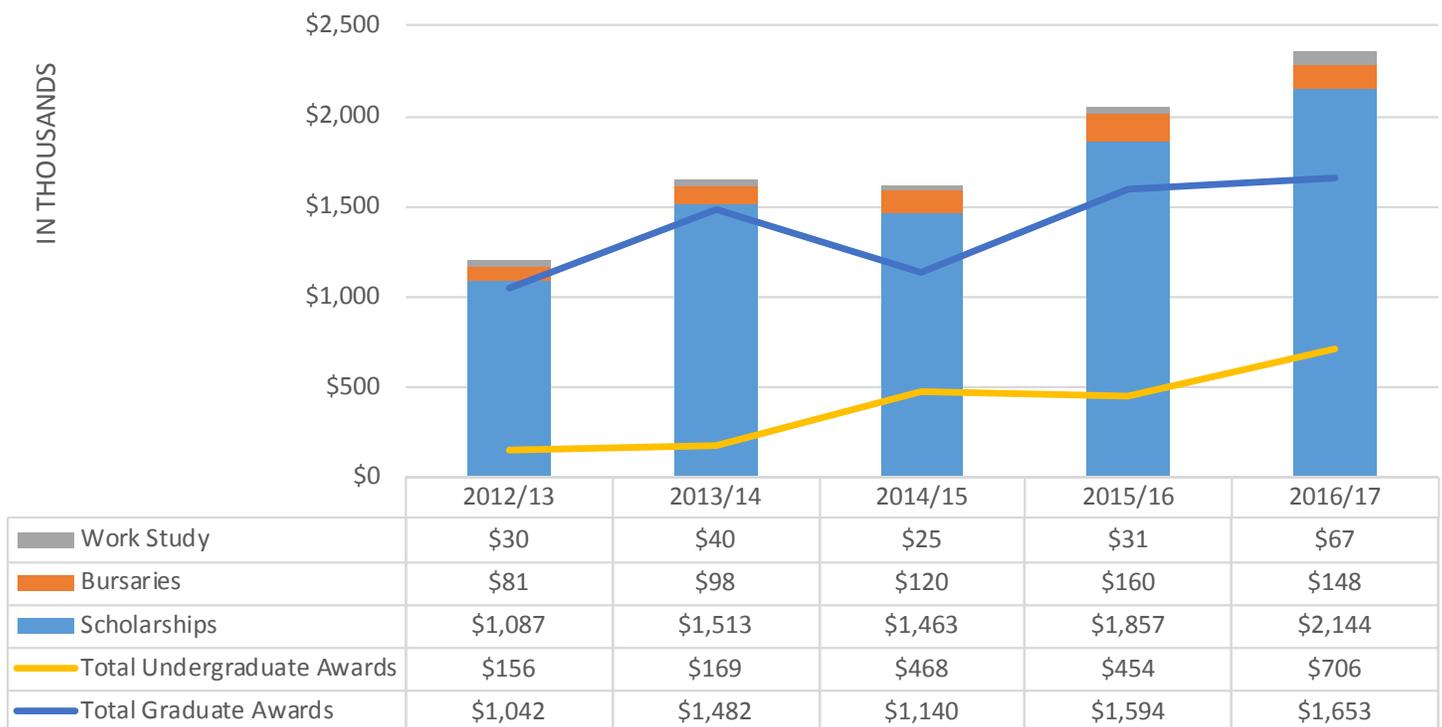
International Student Support

The University of Guelph offers International Entrance Scholarships and International Entrance Bursaries to international students entering post-secondary studies for the first time. The International Scholarships are highly competitive and are offered to students automatically based on their admission application. Scholarships are valued between \$2,000 and \$8,500. For the International Registrar's Entrance Bursary, students apply once they have applied for admission to the University. Entrance bursaries average \$5,000 for the first two semesters.

In the second year of their studies, international students demonstrating financial need are eligible to participate in the International Work Study program and to apply for an in-course international bursary. There are a limited amount of donor-funded, need-based awards available to international students only, such as the Norma Valeriotte bursaries, Quinn Memorial, and the Hardy International awards. As well, international students are considered for the majority of in-course awards.

FIGURE 10

Financial Aid Received by International Students
All Funds



Graduate Student Support

Each year, the University of Guelph invests millions of dollars into graduate students and the research they are pursuing. The University wants to ensure that graduate students have the opportunity to fully dedicate themselves to the successful completion of their graduate program. Therefore, the University of Guelph is committed to providing a minimum stipend of \$17,500 for all domestic and international doctoral students for a period of three years. Funding packages for eligible students are determined within their college graduate department. Graduate students may receive a funding package made up of a number of components, such as:

- Graduate Teaching Assistantship (GTA)
- Graduate Research Assistantship (GRA)/ Graduate Service Assistantship (GSA)
- Scholarship (external and/or internal)

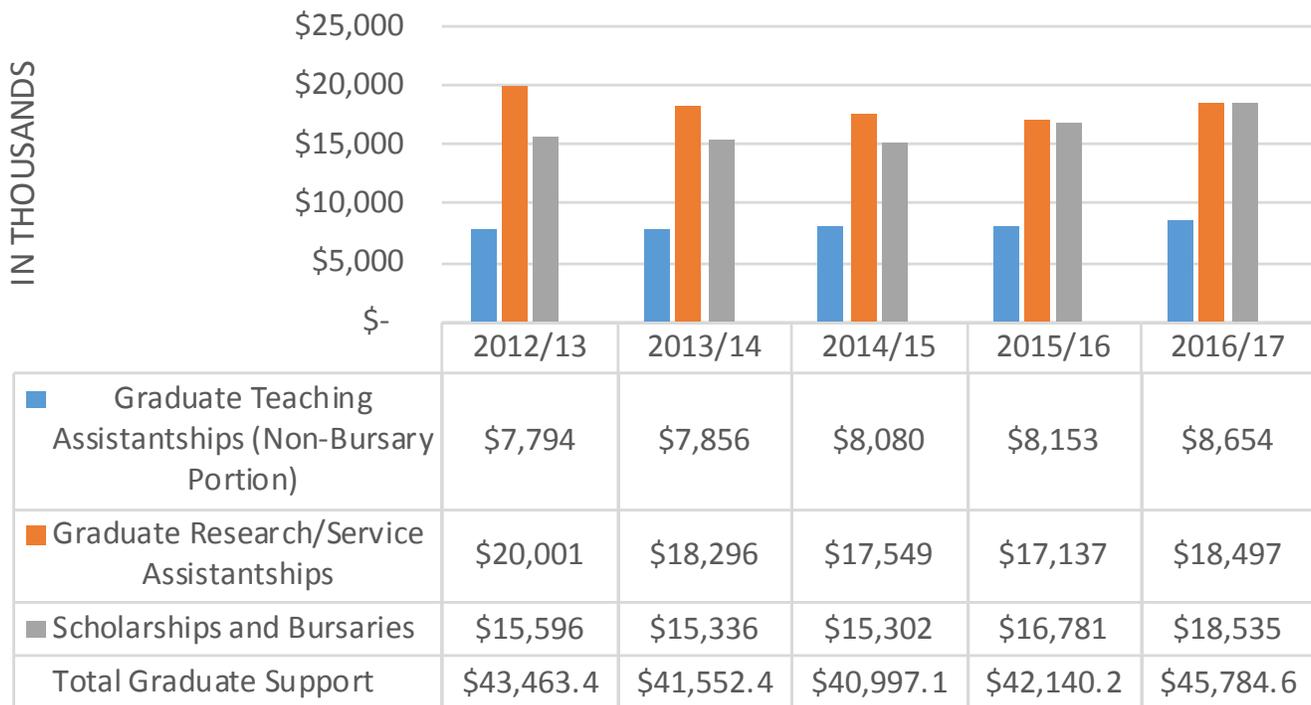
Funding is commonly higher than the minimum stipend, as there are opportunities for additional awards, research stipends, and employment income.

Funding for GTAs, GRAs, and GSAs may come from research grants, contracts, external agencies, governments, and university funds. In 2016/17, the University spent \$27.1 million on GTA, GRA, and GSA positions compared to \$25.3 million in the prior year.

Graduate students received \$18.5 million in scholarships and bursaries during the 2016/17 year compared to \$16.8 million in 2015/16. This is a 10% increase in student scholarship and bursary funding.

FIGURE 11

Graduate Funding Support All Funds



Student Support Profile

Naomi is an independent student with a permanent disability. She is studying part time, with a 60% course load, and is in her second year of a Bachelor of Science degree. Naomi is considered full-time for OSAP and institutional awards because of the permanent disability.

Tuition & Fees	<u>\$6,153</u>
OSAP Grants	\$2,800
Institutional Bursary	<u>\$1,000</u>
Non-Repayable Aid	<u>\$3,800</u>
OSAP Loan	\$7,400
Total Funding	<u>\$11,200</u>

NET TUITION \$2,353

(Tuition & Fees - Non-Repayable Aid = Net Tuition)

Net Tuition: Naomi's tuition and fee expense was effectively reduced to \$2,353, or 38% of the tuition and fees, after subtracting non-repayable aid. She will use the OSAP loan funds to pay the remainder of her tuition and fees, textbooks, and living costs. While at school, the interest that accrued on her loans was paid by the government.

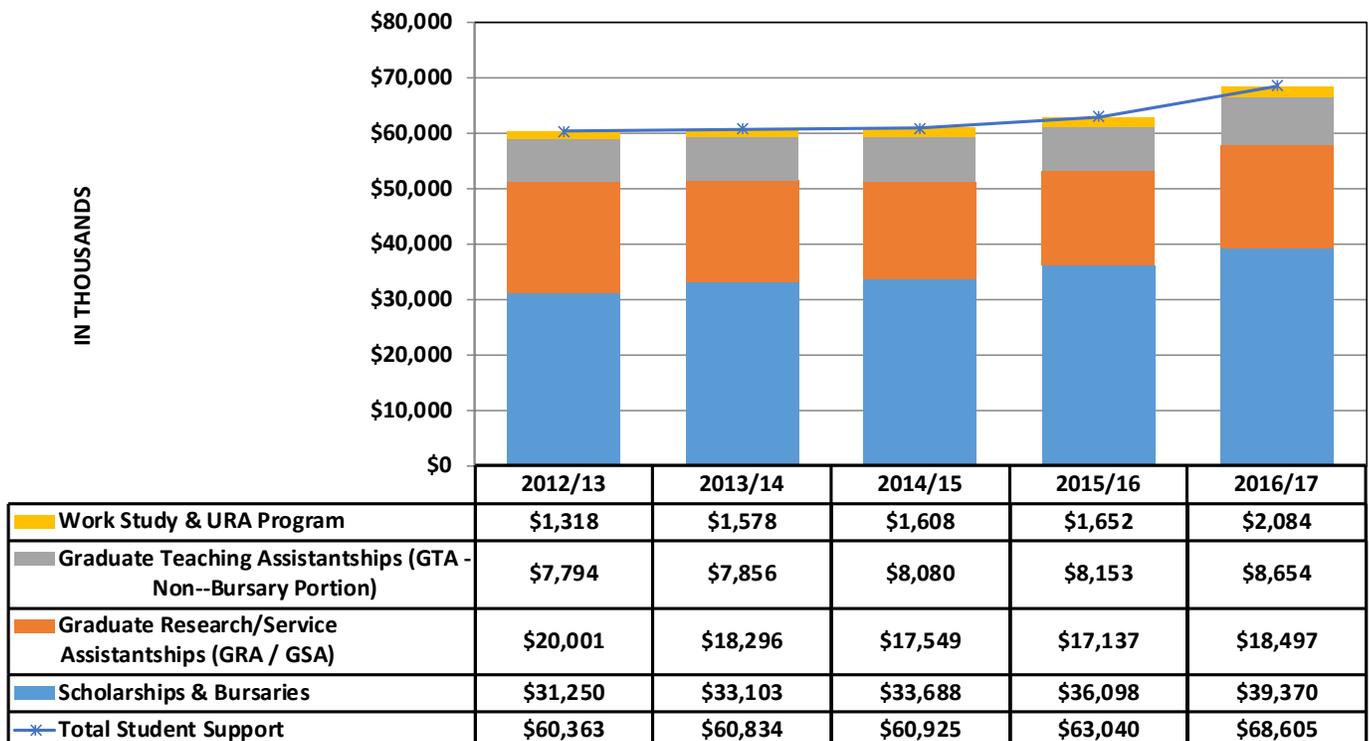
Total Support from the University

Figure 12 provides a five-year overview of total student financial support by program. Since 2012/13, there has been a 14% increase in financial supports to all students at the University of Guelph.

Supporting student accessibility and attracting high-quality students are major priorities of the University. In 2016/2017, the University made a major investment with a funding increase of \$4 million for direct student assistance. This will be augmented in 2017/2018 with an additional \$1.1 million in funds available for direct student assistance.

FIGURE 12

Total Student Financial Support by Program



Ontario Student Assistance Program (OSAP)

The Financial Aid office works with the Ministry of Advanced Education and Skills Development (MAESD) in administering the Ontario Student Assistance Program (OSAP) for students attending the University of Guelph. Eligible students are provided with various types of assistance: loan only, loan and grant, and grant only to eligible students based upon financial need. This assistance is intended to supplement, not to replace, a student's resources, including those of his or her family. Grants do not require repayment from the student, and loans do not accrue interest while the student is completing their academic studies. In 2016/17, 11,862 University of Guelph students (~49% of the population) received funding

through the OSAP program. This was an increase of 4% from the previous year. Figure 13 provides a trend analysis of the number of University of Guelph student recipients for the last five years.

In 2012, the Ontario government introduced the 30% Off Ontario Tuition Grant (OTG) for full-time undergraduate students. This non-repayable grant covered about 30% of average tuition fees for first-entry programs, up to \$950 per semester in 2016/17. Eligible students could receive the grant for their first four years of undergraduate education.

Through the OTG and other grants, the Ontario government has made targeted efforts to reduce student debt levels. Students who borrowed OSAP loans in excess of \$7,500 (for 2016/17) for a two-semester academic year received the Ontario Student Opportunity Grant (OSOG). The amount of OSOG funding that a student received was determined annually by MAESD. The grant was disbursed directly to the National Student Loans Service Centre (NSLSC) to pay down a portion of the student's loan balance.

A restructuring of government student assistance programs began in 2016/17, and students are beginning to benefit from the increased availability of financial aid and the streamlined application process. In 2016/17, these improvements included a 50% increase in the size of federal grants, with Canada Student Grants (CSG) – Low Income grants increasing from \$2,000 to \$3,000, CSG – Middle Income grants from \$800 to \$1,200, and Part time grants from \$1,200 to \$1,800. Other improvements included electronic confirmation of enrolment, online submission of required documents, and students' OSAP funds provided in advance of the first day of classes.



OSAP: Trends for University of Guelph Students

Figures 13 and 14 provide details of OSAP funding received by University of Guelph students over the past five years. They indicate that the number of students utilizing OSAP as a method to help fund their cost of attendance at the University of Guelph has increased each year since 2013/14. In 2012/13, there was a significant increase in the amount of funding received and the number of recipients because it was the first year that the 30% Off Ontario Tuition Grant was offered.

FIGURE 13

Number of Students Receiving OSAP

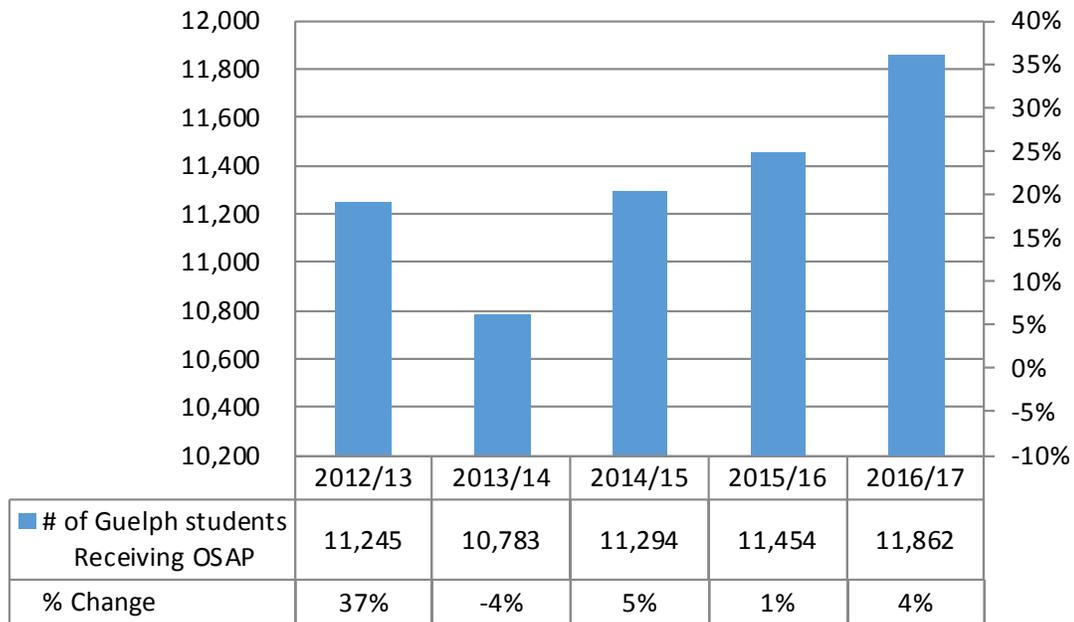
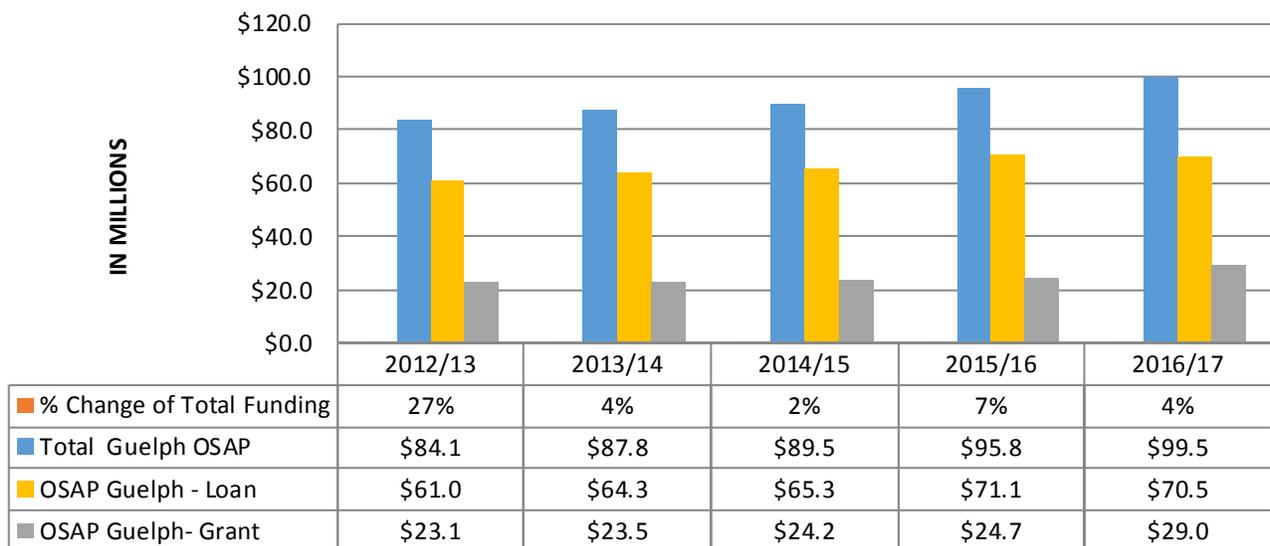


FIGURE 14

OSAP Funding Received



Student Support Profile

Abhishek is a second-year student in the Bachelor of Arts and Sciences program. He is a married student with two children.

Tuition & Fees	<u>\$7,703</u>
OSAP Grants	\$5,777
Institutional Bursary	<u>\$7,000</u>
Non-Repayable Aid	\$12,777
OSAP Loan	<u>\$18,200</u>
Total Funding	<u>\$30,977</u>

NET TUITION (-\$5,074)

(Tuition & Fees - Non-Repayable Aid = Net Tuition)

Net Tuition: Abhishek's tuition and fee expense was effectively reduced to (-\$5,074) after subtracting non-repayable aid. While at school, the interest that accrued on Abhishek's loans was paid by the government. At the end of the 2016-17 study period, Abhishek's OSAP loan was reduced by \$10,700 to \$7,500.

The bursaries that Abhishek received in the amount \$7,000 are to meet Abhishek's SAG of \$2,000 and the remainder of \$5,000 is to cover the unmet living costs as calculated by OSAP.

Student Access Guarantee

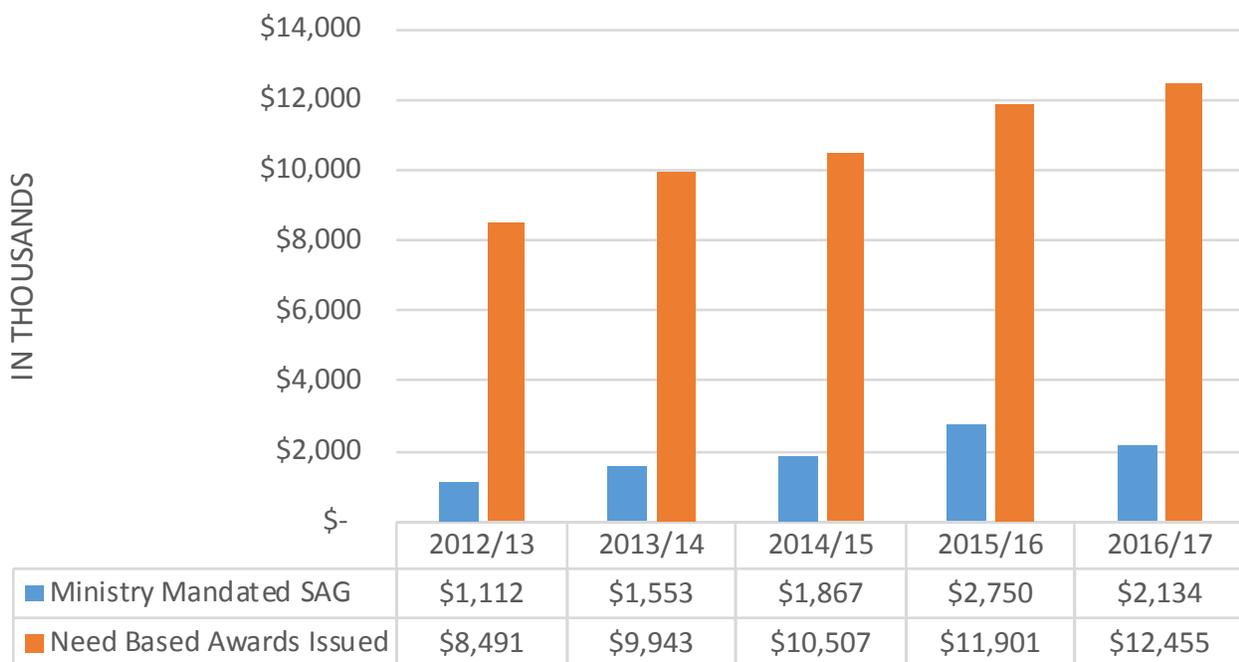
The Student Access Guarantee (SAG), as discussed earlier, ensures that students in need have access to the resources they require for their tuition, books, and mandatory fees.

The University of Guelph provides additional financial support, beyond the SAG obligations, to students who apply for funding to cover their living costs. Figure 15 shows the amount of funding that was mandated through SAG, in comparison with the amount of funding that the University issued to students through need-based awards.

In 2016/17, the OSAP Canada Student Grants for low income and middle income earners increased by 50%. This reduced the ministry-calculated SAG amounts from the previous year. The OSAP transformational changes implemented for 2017/18 will lead to a significant increase to the SAG values because of the exemption of certain personal financial resources such as Registered Educational Savings Plans.

FIGURE 15

Mandated SAG Compared to Actual Need-Based Awards



Non-Financial Supports for Students

At the University of Guelph, supporting students with their finances extends far beyond our financial aid programs. We provide non-financial supports that further assist students in managing their finances. We are dedicated to minimizing students' financial stress and its potential impact on their mental health.

Financial Arrangements

If circumstances prevent a student from paying their account in full by the payment deadline date, Student Financial Services (SFS) provides them with the opportunity to arrange a “Financial Payment Arrangement” plan. Staff in SFS work with the individual to develop an acceptable payment plan.

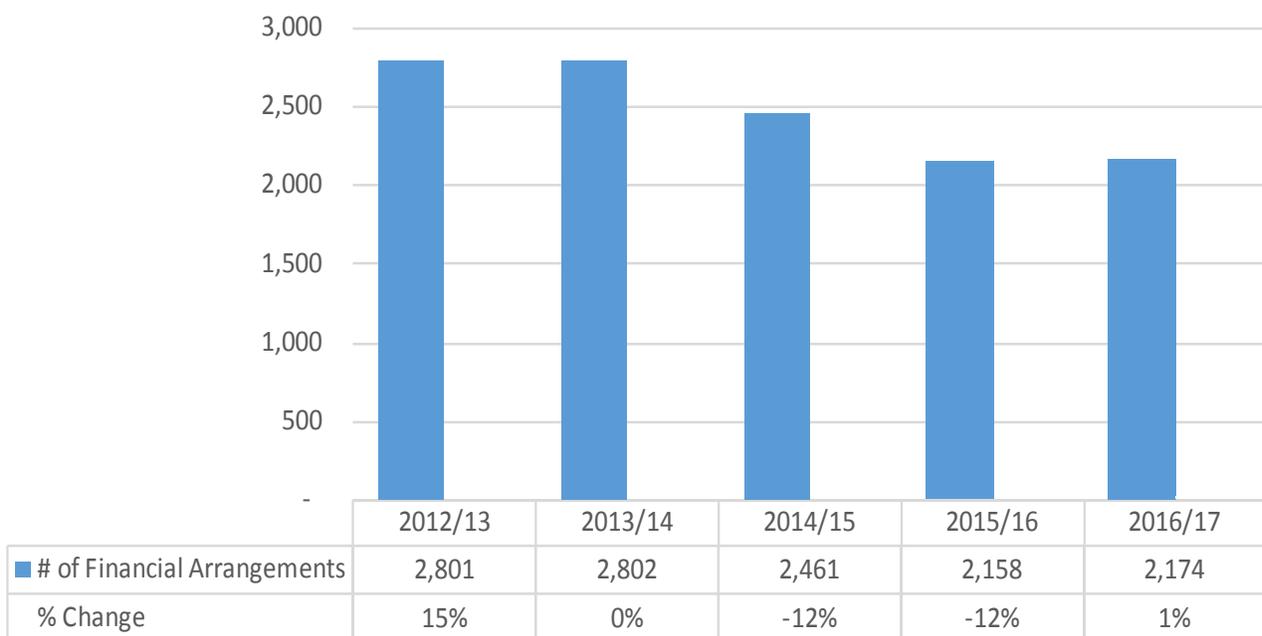
Payment arrangements have reduced the number of students who are deregistered each term. They have also minimized the number of students who incur a penalty and/or are sent to an external collection agency as a delinquent account.

Furthermore, the reduction in the number of students on a financial arrangement plan is attributed to improvements to the OSAP confirmation of enrolment process and how quickly funds are being transferred to students and the institution. Students receive their OSAP funding in advance of the first day of classes and no longer require a financial arrangement. In the Fall 2016 semester, 91% of completed student OSAP applications were confirmed before the first day of classes and, by the payment deadline date, 99% of all completed OSAP applications were confirmed. For the Winter 2017 semester, 88% of OSAP applications were confirmed prior to December 22, 2016.

Students utilizing financial arrangements are those whose costs are not fully covered by OSAP, along with students and their families who prefer to make instalments. Approximately 4% of the student population are using financial arrangements.

FIGURE 16

Student Financial Payment Arrangements



Financial Literacy Learning Opportunities

Student Financial Services (SFS) participates in a variety of events, such as Campus Days, Fall Preview Day, Science and Engineering Sunday, the President's Welcome, the Ontario University Fair, the Interaction workshop for high school students, and high school visits. These events allow us the opportunity to provide information to students and their families, answer questions about financial supports available at the University of Guelph, and discuss how to manage the costs of attending a post-secondary institution.

SFS organizes an annual Financial Literacy Fair that is open to all students and employees. The all-day event takes place in November to coincide with Financial Literacy Month in Canada and is held in the University Centre Courtyard. The objective is to encourage students and employees to take charge of their personal finances by drawing on the resources and tools that are available, both on campus and off. Recruitment of relevant agencies resulted in six external agencies and three internal agencies agreeing to participate:

- Ministry of Advanced Education and Skills Development;
- Financial Consumer Agency of Canada;
- Canada Revenue Agency;
- National Student Loans Service Centre;
- Credit Canada;
- Wellington Family Counselling & Support Services;
- University of Guelph – Wellness Centre;
- CSA – Food Bank; and
- Student Financial Services.

Throughout the day, 360 students participated in our draw for prizes, and we expect that there were even more students who spoke with participating agencies but did not participate in the draw. We received positive feedback from the agencies about their interactions with students.

Conclusion

The University of Guelph is committed to supporting our students in completing their academic goals. We are particularly focused on supporting those students with financial need who would not otherwise be able to pursue a post-secondary education. The Ministry of Advanced Education and Skills Development, in partnership with the post-secondary sectors, has made significant changes to government aid in the packaging and presentation. Special attention will be given by the University as to the impact on student access, success, and university finances as a result of these changes. These impacts will be addressed in next year's annual report.

Appendix: Glossary of Terms

ACCESS Awards: The University established an endowment fund through generous donor contributions and has been matched by the provincial government's Ontario Student Opportunity Trust Fund (OSOTF) program and the Ontario Trust for Student Support (OTSS). The income generated from these endowments will be used to support financial aid programs.

Awards: A generic term used to refer to any type of award. These include scholarships, bursaries, travel grants, and ACCESS awards.

Bursary: An award provided to a student on the basis of financial need only. Financial need is determined by the University of Guelph's Bursary Committee after an evaluation of the Financial Need Assessment Form submitted by the student. Academic merit is not a consideration in awarding a bursary.

Financial Aid: Student support provided through awards (both those that require demonstrated financial need and those that do not), and employment programs that require demonstrated financial need (i.e. Work Study and URA programs). GRAs/GSAs/GTAs are excluded.

Graduate Research Assistantships (GRAs): Funding for graduate students in support of their scholarly activity/research.

Graduate Service Assistantships (GSAs): Paid positions for graduate students that involve work related to the academic enterprise, for example preparing academic or administrative reports or compiling statistics for departmental use.

Graduate Teaching Assistantships (GTAs): Paid positions that are held by graduate students. The student assists the primary instructor of a course with teaching tasks such as giving lectures, supervising laboratory sessions, and grading.

Prize or Medal: An award that is based on completed achievement. It is not conditional on the student engaging in further study.

Scholarship: An award provided on the basis of academic performance and supporting further study. Given that the merit component is normally academic, it may include such non-academic aspects as leadership, extracurricular activity, volunteerism, and community involvement. Scholarships can be monetary, prizes, or medals. Financial need is not a consideration of scholarships.

Scholarship with Financial Need: An award provided on the same criteria as scholarships, but financial need is also a consideration.

Student Access Guarantee (SAG): A program maintained by all Ontario colleges and universities, in coordination with the OSAP program, that ensures that Ontario students are not prevented from attending post-secondary institutions.

Travel Grant: A grant provided to students who wish to travel as part of their program of study. Examples of travel opportunities include: Exchange/Study Abroad programs, letter of permissions, field courses, and independent research projects that are related to a student's program of study.

Travel Grant with Financial Need: A grant awarded based on academic performance, but that also takes into account demonstrated financial need.

Tuition Set Aside: A portion of the additional revenue resulting from domestic tuition fee increases that is mandated by the Ministry to be "set aside" to provide need-based financial assistance to students and meet the University's Student Access Guarantee commitment.

Undergraduate Research Assistantships (URAs): Summer research opportunities for undergraduate students with demonstrated financial need. These positions are full-time employment opportunities beginning in May.

Work Study Program: An on-campus, part-time employment program to assist students with demonstrated financial need during their registered academic term. Work Study is a cost-share program between the hiring department and the University's Tuition Set-Aside funds.