

## UBC Okanagan Distinguished Doctoral Scholar Award

The UBC Okanagan Distinguished Doctoral Scholar Award (DDS) program provides PhD students with a total funding package of \$35,000 plus tuition for up to four years of Doctoral studies. \$20,000 plus tuition is provided by the College of Graduate Studies, and \$15,000 is provided by the student's graduate program/supervisor.

**FHSD has 2 DDS awards to distribute in 2025.**

*\*NOTE: if there are insufficient numbers of international PhD applicants for a September 2025 start, one or both awards may be awarded to domestic PhD students.*

### **Eligibility:**

- International doctoral students starting their degrees in September 2025
- Full-time, dissertation-based students in PhD Nursing, PhD Kinesiology, PhD IGS Individualized (with a primary supervisor with an academic appointment in FHSD), PhD IGS Theme (with a primary supervisor with an academic appointment in FHSD)
- Funding is conditional on maintaining satisfactory academic progress
- Students transferring from a master's program to a doctoral program directly are not eligible

### **Amount:**

- \$35,000 per year plus tuition for up to 4 years
- Supervisors must confirm where \$15,000 of the funding package will come from

### **FHSD Process:**

- Prospective students [apply to one of the following programs at UBCO](#) prior to the published program application deadline:
  - PhD Nursing
  - PhD Kinesiology
  - PhD IGS Individualized (with a primary supervisor with an academic appointment in FHSD)
  - PhD IGS Theme (with a primary supervisor with an academic appointment in FHSD)

\* NOTE – Applications to these programs require support from a prospective faculty member supervisor. See Appendix I for information about finding a supervisor.

- Prospective students submit a one-page letter answering the following questions to [fhsd.graduateprogram@ubc.ca](mailto:fhsd.graduateprogram@ubc.ca) by 11:59pm PST January 31<sup>st</sup>, 2025:
  - Why you wish to complete this PhD program at UBCO?
  - To date, what are your most important/impactful academic accomplishments?
  - To date, what are your most important personal accomplishment? How were these achieved and what impact have they had?
- Applicants are asked to align their answers with one or more of the strategic plans outlined below. Applicants are asked to reflect on their personal/lived experience, professional, and academic experiences

- Prospective supervisors must sign the student's letter confirming their endorsement of the application and committing to providing the required funding package

### **FHSD Evaluation:**

- The FHSD Research and Graduate Training Committee will review eligible applications for the Distinguished Doctoral Studies award
  - Eligible applications meet the following criteria:
    - Program application completed by the published deadline
    - One-page letter (signed by supervisor) submitted to [fhsd.graduateprogram@ubc.ca](mailto:fhsd.graduateprogram@ubc.ca) by 11:59pm January 31<sup>st</sup>, 2025
- Applicants are evaluated on how their application aligns (through lived experience, personal accomplishments, academic accomplishments or a combination of all three) with:
  - [FHSD's Strategic Plan](#)
    - Examples include: Research/Knowledge Excellence, Leadership and Service/Community Engagement
  - [UBC's Strategic Plan](#)
    - Examples include: Diverse representation of outstanding people, Inclusive Excellence, Research Collaboration, Knowledge Exchange/Translation, Interdisciplinary Collaboration, Public Relevance, Indigenous Engagement, Global Networks, Community Engagement
  - [UBC's Strategic Equity and Anti-Racism Framework](#)
    - Examples include: Bringing diverse ways of knowing, Cultivating safe spaces for HPSMs, Engaging in opportunities to expand Equity/Diversity/Inclusion and Anti-Racism competencies

## Appendix I

Preparing a strong graduate application package takes time and initial relationship-building with your potential supervisor, with whom you would be working with for a number of years. A PhD is similar to a job, and the faculty Supervisor functions as your manager and mentor throughout the entirety of your degree.

It is best practice to connect with a potential supervisor **at least one month** before the application deadline.

Research faculty typically interview prospective students, review transcripts and research plans, support students to prepare a strong application package, and organize funding. Please note that final admission decisions are made by the College of Graduate Studies; a supervisor cannot guarantee your admission into the program but are required to support your application.

In addition to discussing your research plan with a prospective supervisor, please familiarize yourself with your program of interest and corresponding admission requirements on the graduate program's website.

### **Approaching a prospective supervisor**

- Send a brief email (no more than 2 paragraphs) including:
  - A short description of the project you are interested in and how your background aligns with the project aims or the research question(s) you are interested in
  - How these align with the faculty member's expertise
  - A brief note about how you plan to fund your studies
  - Details on your background including supporting publication/written documents
  - Copies of unofficial transcripts
  - Your CV

Due to the large number of emails faculty receive, supervision inquiries that do not follow the above instructions are less likely to receive a response.