

McMaster University is establishing a Postdoctoral Fellow Support fund to help address the needs of Postdoctoral researchers in excess of their current salary, benefits, and research support. The PDF Support fund is funded and maintained by McMaster's Office of Postdoctoral Affairs ("OPA"), in the School of Graduate Studies, and final guidelines will be established within the next few months, after a Director for the OPA is in place. All Postdoctoral Fellows at McMaster are eligible to apply.

To ensure that PDFs have their needs addressed in the meantime, we have established a pro-term application process as follows:

Provide a brief letter of request (including contact information) via email to the Assistant Dean of Graduate Student Life and Research Training, Mr. Peter Self (peteself@mcmaster.ca), explaining the nature of the request, the amount of the request, and the rationale behind the request (including a statement regarding other mechanisms for funding you have investigated or plan to investigate). A monthly budget including expenses and income, demonstrating the need for funds, must be included with the letter. Whenever possible original receipts will be required.

After initial assessment, and typically within one week, Mr. Self or a representative from the OPA will let you know if your request is funded in-full or in-part, not funded, or if additional information is required to make a decision.

Note that we have only a limited amount of funding available each year, so we do not anticipate being able to provide more than \$250-\$500 to any one individual, although there may be exceptional circumstances that would warrant higher awards. Awards will be made on an on-going basis, and PDFs should be aware that funding may be depleted before year's end, so they are advised to apply as soon as they are aware that there is a critical need for support that cannot be covered by another source.

Any funds provided from the PDF Support Fund are considered bursaries, and are not required to be repaid. Please note that the bursary may be a taxable, depending on each unique situation for which it is being disbursed. Any money used to reimburse an employee for childcare, medical expenses, living expenses, would be additional income and hence taxable and reportable on T4. Any monies reimbursing employees for items from which the University benefits (e.g., research, publication costs, etc. may not be taxable).

Because this is the first year of our PDF Support Fund program, it is difficult to anticipate precisely the range of requests we may receive, but the funds are expected to be able to provide assistance for things such as research costs, publication fees, childcare costs, and living and medical expenses.

We thank you for your patience while we finalize the terms of the PDF Support Fund program, and we look forward to your feedback along the way.