

Graduate Community Development Fund (GCDF) Policy 2022

The Graduate Community Development Fund (GCDF) was created in partnership with the School of Graduate Studies at the University of Toronto (SGS) in March 2017 to provide merit-based equity awards recognizing exceptional students on campus for their contributions to the graduate student experience.

AWARD ELIGIBILITY

In order to be eligible, an applicant must:

- be a UTGSU member at the time of application
- anticipate to have a net income and/or funding (excluding student loans) of less than \$15,000 between September 1st and August 31st. Priority will be given to those who have not received UTGSU funding in the current academic year.
- not be a current member of the Finance Committee, UTGSU Executive Committee, Awards Committee and Staff. If so it is an automatic disqualification.

AWARD DESCRIPTION

- There will be an Awards Subcommittee struck in Fall term. The sub-committee will be responsible for the assessment and approval of applicants.
 - It is a closed semi-autonomous body of the UTGSU Finance Committee.
 - Members of the Awards Subcommittee will not be eligible to apply for the Graduate Community Development Fund during their term
- The Awards Committee will evaluate the applications and determine the recipients, and provide the list to the Finance Committee.
- The Finance Committee will review the list and the process of evaluation, make necessary changes and provide their approval.
- For the full criteria of the Awards Subcommittee, please refer to the Awards Committee Terms of Reference
- This is a bursary available once per academic year.
- Although students may fall within multiple categories, they must apply to only ONE category. Multiple application will not be assessed.
- A student will only be eligible to receive one award per academic year.
- There are 4 categories of Awards containing awards consisting of \$1000 each. In no particular order, the Awards Committee must work to fulfil the equity eligibility requirements as outlined in the following award descriptions:

1. Open

- a. This is a general award open to any current graduate students.
- b. 4 awards in this category. Priority will be given to applicants with accessibility needs, caregiver, and other equity needs.

2. International Students

- a. This award is open to students registered at the University of Toronto as an “International Student,” i.e., students who are charged international tuition fees.
- b. 2 awards in this category.

3. Women and Trans Spectrum

- a. This award is open to graduate students who identify themselves as women or students who identify themselves in terms outside or within the gender binary of “man” and “woman” (for example: non-binary or genderfluid).
- b. 2 awards in this category.

4. Racialized (Indigenous, Black, People of Color)

- a. In no particular order, the Awards Committee must seek to allocate at least one award to students who identify themselves as belonging to one or more of the following groups:
 - i. Indigenous to Turtle Island (ie. First Nations, Metis, or Inuit)
 - ii. Black (ie. Afro-Canadian, African, Afro-Caribbean, African-American, Afro-Latino)
 - iii. People of color (ie. who do not self-identify as belonging to a Black national/ethnic group or Indigenous to Turtle Island)
- b. 2 awards in this category.

AWARD INSTRUCTION

- An applicant must fill out the online application and submit the following documents:
 1. A one-page typed statement responding to the following question:

“How have you, as an individual, contributed to improving the University of Toronto graduate student experience through your community work and activities?”
 2. Two Reference Letters from members of the university and/or public community. Their full name, designation and contact info must be provided. Their recommendation must focus on extra-curricular activities and not on course work and/or research related to the applicant's academic program. Any document not asked for will be discarded.

The statement and references must be submitted online into a single PDF file with the application form.

DATE OF SUBMISSION

Every year UTGSU will announce the date of submission for the GCDF application.

DISQUALIFICATION

If an applicant has been found to have falsified their application, they will be disqualified and ineligible from future awards by the UTGSU.