

**Deputy Provost (Student Life and Learning)**  
James Administration Building, Room 621  
845 Sherbrooke St. West  
Tel: 514-398-3109

**TO:** Senate

**FROM:** Professor Ollivier Dyens, Deputy Provost (Student Life & Learning)

**SUBJECT:** Annual Report on Scholarships and Student Aid (2016-17)

**DATE:** March 28, 2018

**DOCUMENT #:** D17-56

**ACTION REQUIRED:**  INFORMATION    APPROVAL/DECISION

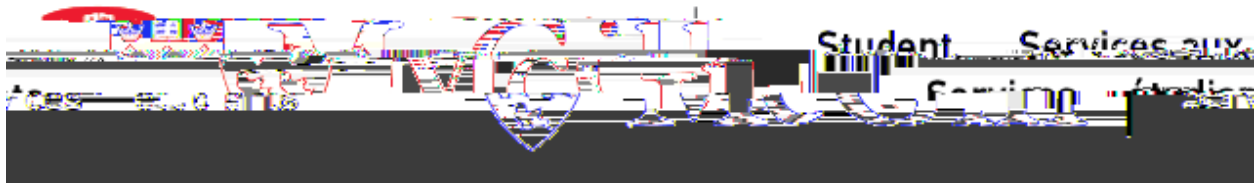
**ISSUE**                      The Annual Report on Scholarships and Student Aid is presented to Senate for information.

---

---





# Reporton Scholarship& StudentAid 2016/17

Preparedby:

CaraPiperni,Director  
Scholarship& StudentAid Office  
March2018

# Contents

OVERVIEW.....2  
GOVERNMENT



## GOVERNMENT STUDENT AID

Figure 1 shows the breakdown of \$79.4M government aid by major jurisdiction. The number of government aid recipients has increased over the past decade partly due to increased student enrolment at the University.

support. As depicted in Figure 2, the 2016/17 central allocation of \$8.8M<sup>1</sup> represented an increase of 6% over the previous year. The 2017/18 budget is confirmed at \$9.2M.

Figure 2: Need based Aid Allocated from Tuition Set Asides



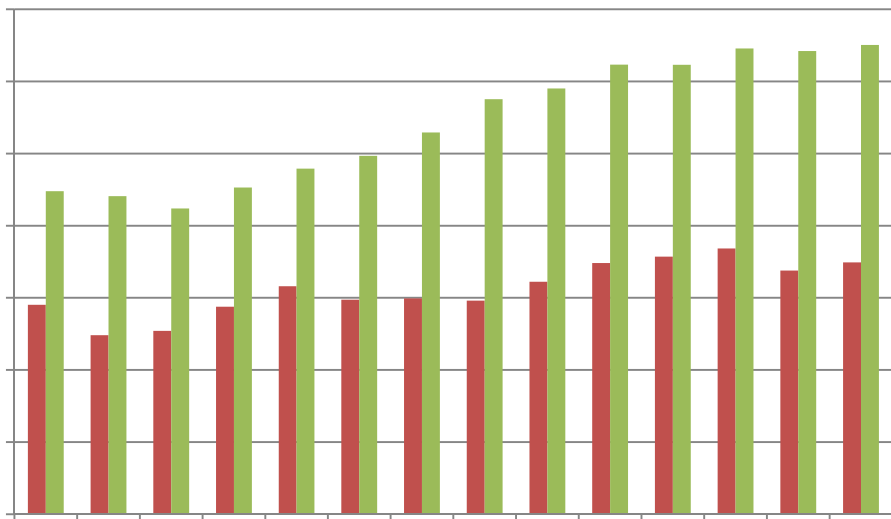
Funding for students is further enhanced by generous alumni and donors and due to the efforts of University Advancement (UA) and the faculties. It should also be noted that McGill students makes significant contributions in support of needy students, often

The Scholarship & Student Aid team is privileged to witness the vital difference need based aid makes in students' lives on a daily basis. Appendix 2 contains several examples out of countless written thanks received in 2016/17.

## UNDERGRADUATE TRENDS

The primary clientele for need based aid are first time, first degree, full time students. Figure 3 depicts the growing proportion of undergrads who have received government aid over the past decade. In the past year, undergraduate students benefiting from non repayable McGill bursaries (entrance and in course) has increased in 2016/17 by 10%, while the number of McGill loan recipients has stayed constant. Overall, the number of undergraduate students benefiting from McGill need based programs (i.e. bursaries, loans, vouchers and works study) in 2016/17 has increased by 7% due to ongoing efforts linked to the University's strategic priority to both recruit and retain a socioeconomically diverse student body. Gender split is proportionate to overall enrolment. The average aid per student in 2016/17 has continued to rise in proportion to the increased costs of attendance across most jurisdictions. Graduate students are excluded for the purposes of this illustration, as most have other core funding at their disposal.

Figure 3: Proportion of undergraduate students receiving need based aid, as compared to enrolment trends





## TYPE OF MCGIL NEED BASED SUPPORT (All students)

McGill offers several programs to assist students in need, which are available to all full time students in degree programs: entrance and in course bursaries, student loans that are interest free during studies, a Work Study Program, Fee Deferrals as well as a Mobility financial aid supplement for exchanges. In addition to over 10,000 on line application assessments, more than 3,000 one on one aid appointments were conducted by Financial Aid Counselors on both campuses. Over a five year period, the number of applications has increased by 21% which coincides with the growing socioeconomic diversity of the student body. While students may submit multiple aid applications as their need arises throughout the year, the number of applications decreased in 2016/17 by 2.4% over the previous year. This is due to efforts to create more upfront financial certainty for students. Whenever possible, at the time of their first application, a holistic need assessment is performed for the entire academic year.

The Scholarship and Student Aid Office also provides budget and debt counseling and other individualized services to respond to the many financial challenges faced by students. Through our Student Financial Literacy Ambassador program and our Money Management educational programming, we promote financial wellness to all students.

### Entrance Bursary Program

Established in 2005/06 as a pilot program for Quebec residents and extended in 2006/07 to students from the rest of Canada, the U.S. and overseas, the Entrance Bursary Program is exceptional in Canada, making need based aid available to all accepted undergraduates, regardless of their geographic origin and citizenship. Unfortunately, we do not have the resources to meet all need, but the program is open and steadily growing to promote access and diversity.

For the Fall 2016 entrance cycle, the number of recipients increased by 15.9% due to more applicants and more offers compared to the previous year. Total offers increased by 10% with average offers remaining fairly constant across all jurisdictions. The entrance package continues to be enhanced with automatic eligibility into the Work Study program for all recipients who request participation.

At the time of this report preparation, the Fall 2017 entrance cycle rendered a 13% decrease in applicants resulting in an 8% decrease in total offer value but with a steady yield rate as compared to the prior year.

## In Course Bursary Program

Work Study subsidies decreased by 9.7% over the previous year (Appendix 3), whereas the number of students employed increased by 8.2% over the prior year. Of 769 available Work Study jobs, 70% were filled.

The Work Study Program paid out \$896K in wages subsidies to McGill employers who hired and paid eligible students. The gross earnings of students employed through the program was \$3M – a significant help to needy students in defraying living costs without increasing debt.

### Fee Deferrals

Fee deferrals represent another important provision for students who lack the cash to pay tuition by the deadline. Students who do not have outstanding tuition or fees from a prior term may request the deferral of tuition and fees, if they will be receiving funding from the University, government aid programs, or external agency awards administered by McGill. This program responds to financial hardship created by timing differences between tuition due dates and anticipated core funding payments without having to disburse and then collect short term loans.

Table 3 shows the requests granted in 2016/17 on a term basis, during which time no interest or late payment charges were applied on the fees specifically covered by the deferral. The number of unique students benefiting from this arrangement remained fairly stable since the prior year.

Table 3: Count of fee deferrals granted, by reason category

Deferral reason	Length	2016/17
Installments of core graduate funding	<90 days beyond due date	3,915
Government aid delays	<60 days beyond due date	3,134
International fund transfer delays	<30 days beyond due date	842
Discretionary by Student Aid Office (e.g. financial hardship)	Varies	288
TOTAL		8,179
Unique student count		5,295

### Improving access and diversity

A robust financial aid program is fundamental to strategic recruitment and retention. It supports universal access and improves diversity.

- x McGill's Entrance Bursary Program makes need based aid available to all (first time, first degree) newly admitted undergraduates, regardless of geographic origin and citizenship. In 2016/17, approximately 35% of entrance need based dollars were offered to non U.S. international students.

- x In the past five years, there has been 93% more aid recipients and 161% more aid dollars to underrepresented groups including first generation, indigenous students, students with disabilities and students with dependents (as self declared by aid applicants, see Appendix 4).
- x A further access initiative is being launched to ensure undergraduate students have access to enriched educational opportunities (EEOs) regardless of their financial capacity. As part of the Plan économique du Québec, the Plan d'Action Pour la réussite en éducation et en enseignement supérieur, the University has attributed a portion of this new funding has been attributed to the Scholarship & Student Aid Office to launch a special need based aid program to defray the costs of valuable experiences outside of the classroom. Approximately \$600K per year shall be available in non repayable bursaries for three years starting 2017/18. Eligible EEOs for the pilot year includes field semesters and certain unpaid internships and research.

## UNDERGRADUATE MERIT AWARDS

### Renewable Entrance Scholarships

The major and prestige entrance scholarships remain our most attractive awards. Based foremost on academic excellence combined with achievements in leadership, community service, athletics and artistry, they are essential in ensuring McGill's competitiveness with other Canadian universities. Funding for each incoming cohort depends on endowment performance and the number of successful renewals.

For the 2016/17 cycle, 522 students were

## Undergraduate Faculty/Department Awards

While entrance scholarships are an effective tool to attract the best students to McGill, in-course awards, which are administered directly by faculties and departments, recognize meritorious achievement during studies. This category not only includes faculty administered scholarships, prizes and convocation awards, but also stipends paid from researchers grants as well as awards from granting agencies. This complete picture, as shown in Appendix 1, represents a total value of \$9.38M across all funding sources benefiting 3,439 undergraduate students. This represents an increase of 12% in funding level and 8% increase in the number of recipients compared to previous year.

## SPECIAL AWARDS

### Mobility Awards for Official Exchanges

The Mobility Awards program is funded by two grants from the Québec government:

1. Le Programme de bourses pour de courts séjours d'études universitaires (PBCSE) for Québec students to have the opportunity to study abroad.
2. The International Mobility grant to support out of province and international student exchange and study abroad endeavors.

In prior years, the amount per student was determined without consideration of financial need based on destination, duration, number of transfer credits and other travel awards received. This model proved to be unsustainable due to the increased demand for exchange experiences.

As of 2013/14, the Office of the Deputy Provost (Student Life and Learning) established a split envelope. A fixed Basic Mobility Award (currently set at \$1,500 per student) is given to each student approved for official exchange. Additionally, a Mobility Financial Aid Supplement is available by special application for students with demonstrated financial need. This ensures finances are not a barrier to participation for students already receiving need based aid for their studies.

In 2016/17, the total Mobility funding for official exchanges was \$1.61M representing an increase of 11% over the previous year.

Loran

## MasterCard Foundation Scholars Program

McGill's participation in the MasterCard Foundation Scholars Program commenced in 2013/14 with the objective of bringing top sub-Saharan African students to McGill. Full cost support is offered for the duration of each student's academic program and covers tuition, fees and standard allowance for living costs, books and travel. In 2016/17, the cohort welcomed its first graduate students, which now comprises of 51 undergraduate students and 4 graduate students. The total funding for undergraduate students was \$2.3M, and \$118K for graduate students.

## GRADUATE STUDENT AWARDS

In terms of financial support for graduate students, the scope of this report only includes need based government and institutional aid. Fellowships, stipends, research grants, as well as other awards and employment opportunities dedicated to graduate students are the responsibility of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies to report.

## ATTACHMENTS

### Appendix 1 – 10 Year Comparison of All Funding Programs

Strategic Student Life & Learning Funding Programs administered by Scholarship & Student Aid Office: McGill Need Based Awards & Government Aid for all Students, McGill Merit Based Awards for Undergraduate Students by Level 10 Year Comparison

### Appendix 2 – Thank You Letters

Excerpts from letters of appreciation received from financial aid recipients

### Appendix 3 – Work Study Program

Work Study Programs since inception: Jobs, Student Applicants Accepted and Employed, Gross Earnings and Subsidies Paid to Employers

### Appendix 4 – Under Represented Students Receiving Aid

Under Represented Students receiving McGill Aid: by Aid Type and Category – 5 Year Comparison









