

Killam Level 1 and Level 2 Predoctoral Scholarships

Policies and Guidelines

The Killam Will stipulates that Killam scholarships are for 2 years, subject to review. At Dalhousie the maximum length of time any one student can hold Killam funding is 4 years. This includes funding at both levels. FGS regulations restrict students from receiving Killam funding past year 2 in a Master's program and past year 4 in a Doctoral program.

Total of 4 years of Predoctoral Killam support (full-time equivalent)

Total = Level 1 + Level 2 support

- Level 1 Killam:**
- Students accepted in a Master's program
 - Students accepted in a Doctoral program directly after completion of their bachelor's degree
 - Valued at \$20,000 (plus international differential fees, if applicable)
 - Support available for 2 years, pending successful renewal
- Level 2 Killam:**
- Students accepted in a Doctoral program
 - Valued at \$30,000 – effective 2017-18 competition (plus international differential fees, if applicable)
 - Support available for 2 or 3 years (pending successful renewals)
There is the possibility of a 1-year extension, if the student also held a full national scholarship during one of these years and is still eligible to hold funding (i.e., students can not hold the award past year 4 in the PhD program or past 4 years of Killam support)

Dalhousie awards Killam Predoctoral Scholarships on a competitive basis to outstanding graduate students in thesis programs (Master's or Doctoral level) in any discipline in the arts, sciences, engineering, humanities, and social sciences.

Killam Predoctoral Scholars are selected on the basis of nominations made by academic departments. All nominees must also have applied for funding from relevant national or international agencies. Students are eligible for nomination for the Killam Scholarships only if they have applied directly or have been nominated by a university for national scholarships relevant to their discipline (NSERC, SSHRC, CIHR, or equivalent in the case of non-Canadian students). Killam predoctoral scholarships are open to both Canadians and non-Canadians.

Killam scholarships usually start September 1st. Deferring a scholarship or starting it early requires approval of the Associate Dean.

Level 1 and Level 2 Predoctoral Killam Scholarships⁺
Level 1 + Level 2 Predoctoral Killam support = Total of 4 years

	Level 1		Level 2	
Last completed degree program	Bachelors → Master's	Bachelors → Doctorate	Master's → Doctorate	Bachelor's → Doctorate
Duration	24 months*	24 months*	24 - 36 months*	24 - 36 months*
Eligibility	Must apply for scholarship before start of program. The award is for 24 months. The award must begin at start of program.	Must apply for scholarship before start of program. The award is for 24 months*. The award must begin at start of program.	Must start award before beginning the 12 th month of doctoral program to be eligible for 36 months of funding. Must start award before beginning the 24 th month of doctoral program to be eligible for 24 months of funding.	Must start award before beginning the 12 th month of doctoral program to be eligible for 36 months of funding. Must start award before beginning the 24 th month of doctoral program to be eligible for 24 months of funding.
	Applicants must have applied directly or been put forward by a University for a national scholarship competition at the appropriate level (or equivalent in the case of non-Canadian nominees)			
1 st class average	Required in each of the last two years of full-time study			

*Note that the Faculty of Graduate Studies does not fund students past year 2 in a Master's program and past year 4 in a Doctoral program.

*To be considered in the Level 1 pool with other students applying directly out of a bachelor's program.

*All Killam scholarships are subject to a yearly review of progress.

Killam Scholarship \$ Values

Killam scholarships will be valued at \$20,000 (Level 1) and \$30,000 (Level 2) effective 2017-18 competition for the academic year. A student who receives an external award (e.g., NSERC, SSHRC, CIHR, etc.) in addition to a Killam Predoctoral Scholarship is designated as a Honourary Killam Predoctoral Scholar and their external award will be supplemented up to the level of a Killam Predoctoral Scholarship.

Please note that Level 1 Killam award holders who transfer from a master's degree into a doctoral program without completing the Master's degree requirements, who complete their master's degree in less than the maximum duration of their award and proceed directly into a doctoral program, or who enroll directly in a doctoral program are not eligible to have their stipend increased for the balance of their Level 1 Killam award. They can, however, continue to receive the Level 1 stipend while in a Doctoral program until

the completion date of the Level 1 award. All students must apply successfully for a Level 2 Killam scholarship if they wish to receive support beyond the term of a Level 1 Killam award.

Killam Review Process

Two sub-committees are formed from the Killam Selection Committee; the Associate Dean, Scholarships and Programs, chairs both subcommittees. One establishes the ranking for the Level 1 Killam nominations, while the other ranks nominees for the Level 2 Killam scholarship. Each Committee member reads and rates all the applications allocated to that committee before the final meeting at which a ranked list of applicants to be forwarded to Dean of Graduate Studies is produced. The selection criteria and their weightings are listed below. Average GPAs are calculated by the Faculty of Graduate Studies using the guidelines summarized in the tables at the end of this section. It is up to the Faculty of Graduate Studies to decide how many Level 1 and Level 2 awards will be offered. The number of awards offered in any given year depends on the availability of funds, the success rate of nominees in the national scholarship competitions and the number of successful renewals.

Selection criteria

The multidisciplinary committees evaluate and select Killam nominees based on:

Academic Excellence	As demonstrated by academic transcripts, awards and distinctions and duration of previous studies.
Research Potential	Quality of analytical skills, ability to think critically, ability to apply skills and knowledge, judgment, originality, initiative and autonomy, determination and ability to complete projects within an appropriate period of time - as demonstrated in the description of program of study and by work experience, research contributions, conference presentations and scholarly publications, letters of reference and, if applicable, the departmental appraisal.
Communication Skills, interpersonal and leadership abilities	As demonstrated in the description of the program of study and, if relevant, by work experience, community involvement and other extracurricular activities, as well as by letters of reference, the quality of presentation of the application and, if applicable, the departmental appraisal.

Selection Criteria Weightings		
	Level 1 (%)	Level 2 (%)
Academic excellence	50	30
Research ability or potential	30	50
Communication skills, interpersonal and leadership abilities	20	20

Renewals

Renewal of Killam Predoctoral Scholarships is subject to satisfactory progress based on the Scholars' progress reports. Progress reports are reviewed by the Associate Dean.

GPA Calculations

GPA* will be calculated using grades in each of the last two completed years of study (full-time equivalent).

*In the case of newly admitted students, we use the Admittance GPA that was calculated by the Admissions & Convocation Officer. For a list of what is included and what is excluded from the GPA calculation, see the GPA Calculation guidelines found on the FGS website at: <http://dalgrad.dal.ca/forms/docs/gpa.pdf>

Interruption of Award

- Students may only interrupt active awards for reasons described in: Illness or Health-Related Family Responsibilities; Parental Leave; and Leave for Relevant Work Experience.
- Students must obtain approval from the Faculty of Graduate Studies prior to any interruption of awards.
- Interruption of less than 12 months:
 - submit the appropriate documentation, including support of the request from the student's academic unit, to the Graduate Studies Office for evaluation and approval (or refusal).
- Interruption of 12 months or more (in case of truly exceptional reasons):
 - submit the appropriate documentation, including support of the request from the student's academic unit, to the Graduate Studies Office for evaluation and approval (or refusal).
- For approved interruptions, Dalhousie University will suspend payment of the award for the duration of the interruption and will resume payment when all the conditions of the award are met, generally, on the student's return to full-time studies. The interruption will not reduce the total amount of support available to the student.
- For the purpose of determining eligibility for future Killam scholarships, approved interruptions will not count when the number of months spent in graduate studies is being calculated, regardless of the student's registration status.
- A student may not interrupt the award in order to take up another award or to pursue studies other than those for which the student received funding.
- During an interruption, students must be devoted full time to the activity for which the interruption was requested. Students may not accept employment other than relevant work experience approved by the Faculty of Graduate Studies (see Leave for Relevant Work Experience below).

Unpaid Leave for Reasons of Maternity, Illness or Health-Related Family Responsibilities

- Students are eligible for a leave of absence of up to three terms, in accordance with Dalhousie University's policies, only for reasons of parental leave, illness or health-related family responsibilities.
- Students must obtain approval from the Faculty of Graduate Studies prior to interrupting the award.
- Contact the Graduate Studies Office to find out what documentation it requires to approve the interruption. This may include birth, adoption or medical certificates.

Leave for Relevant Work Experience and Study Abroad

- Students may interrupt the award to obtain relevant work experience or to study abroad.
- Students are not entitled to receive award payments during such interruptions.
- Students must obtain approval from the Faculty of Graduate Studies prior to interrupting the award.
- Students are permitted an interruption of up to three terms for this type of leave during their master's or doctoral studies.

Vacation Entitlement

Students are entitled to an unbroken vacation of at least 2 weeks at a time agreed upon between student and supervisor.

Killam Level 1 and Level 2 Predoctoral Scholarships

Timelines and Examples

Level 1 Scenarios

Start Date	Application Date	End Date	Note
May 2010	Feb. 2010	April 2012	Request early start
Sept. 2010	Feb. 2010	Aug. 2012	
Jan. 2011	Feb. 2010	Dec. 2012	Request deferral

1. Starting Sept. 2010: A student applying in the Feb. 2010 Level 1 competition normally start their program in Sept. 2010.
2. Starting May 2010: A student who is beginning their program in May 2010 and wants to apply for Level 1 funding must apply in the Feb. 2010 competition. While scholarships for successful applicants in the Feb. 2010 competition normally begin in Sept. 2010, in this case permission from the Associate Dean to begin the scholarship one term early (May 2010) would have to be requested.
3. Starting Jan. 2011: A student who is beginning their program in Jan. 2011 and wants to apply for Level 1 funding must apply in the Feb. 2010 competition. While scholarships for successful applicants in the Feb. 2010 competition normally begin in Sept. 2010, in this case permission from the Associate Dean to defer the scholarship 1 term (to Jan 2011) would have to be requested.

Level 2 Scenarios

1. Level 1 funding followed by Level 2 support (Remember: Level 1 + Level 2 Predoctoral Killam support = Total of 4 years):

Level 1 Start	Level 1 End	Start Date of Phd Program	Latest Application Date for Level 2	Latest Start Date for Level 2	Level 2 End Date	Max. Level 2 Duration	Funding Window in PhD program
May 2010	April 2012	May 2010 (Bach → PhD)	Feb. 2012	May 2012	Apr 2014	2 years	Max. to end of year 4
May 2010	April 2012	May 2012 (Master's → PhD)	Feb 2014	May 2014	Apr 2016	2 years	Max. to end of year 4
Sept. 2010	Aug. 2012	Sept 2010 (Bach → PhD)	Feb. 2012	Sept 2012	Aug 2014	2 years	Max. to end of year 4
Sept. 2010	Aug. 2012	Sept 2012 (Master's → PhD)	Feb. 2014	Sept 2014	Aug 2016	2 years	Max. to end of year 4
Jan. 2011	Dec. 2012	Jan 2011 (Bach → PhD)	Feb. 2012	Jan 2013	Dec 2014	2 years	Max. to end of year 4
Jan. 2011	Dec. 2012	Jan 2013 (Master's → PhD)	Feb. 2014	Jan 2015	Dec 2016	2 years	Max. to end of year 4

- a) A PhD student beginning in May 2012 who began a level 1 Killam Scholarship in Sept. 2010 and completed a master's degree in April 2012 will be eligible to apply for 2 further years of funding at level 2 in the Feb. 2012 competition. In this case the student completed her/his master's degree in less than 2 years and enrolled directly into a PhD program, so the student would continue to receive the remaining 4 months of level 1 funding from May–Aug. 2012 during the first term of their PhD program. As their PhD program began May 2012 they would apply as early as the Feb 2012 competition to have their level 2 funding begin Sept 2012 to Aug 2014 (no interruption of award), or as late as Feb 2014 to have their level 2 funding begin May 2014 (to Apr. 2016).
- b) A PhD student beginning in Jan. 2012 who began a Level 1 Killam Scholarship in Sept. 2010 and completed a Master's degree in Dec. 2011 will be eligible to apply for 2 further years of funding at Level 2. In this case the student completed their Master's degree in less than 2 years and enrolled directly into a PhD program, so the student would continue to receive the remaining 8 months of Level 1 funding from Jan.–Aug. 2012 for the first two terms of their PhD program. As their PhD

program began Jan. 2012 they would apply as early as the Feb. 2012 competition to have their Level 2 funding begin Sept. 2012 (to Aug. 2014), or as late as Feb. 2013 to have their Level 2 funding begin Jan 2014 (to Dec 2015).

- c) A student who goes directly from a bachelor's program into a PhD program (starting Sept. 2010), who is successful in the Level 1 competition (Feb. 2010) can hold her/his Level 1 award for 2 years (until Aug. 2012). They may apply for Level 2 funding before the end of their 2nd year in the program (Feb. 2012), and if successful they could begin their Level 2 award in Sept. 2012. This student could apply as late as Feb 2012 to have their level 2 funding begin Sept. 2012 (to Aug. 2014).
- d) A student who goes directly from a bachelor's program into a PhD program (starting May 2010), was successful in the Level 1 competition (Feb. 2010) and received permission to start their award early (in May 2010 instead of Sept 2010) can hold their Level 1 award for 2 years (until April 2012). They may apply for Level 2 funding before the end of their 2nd year in the program (Feb. 2012), and if successful they could begin their level 2 award in May 2012 (in this case the student has already received permission from the Associate Dean to deviate from the normal award start date). This student could apply as late as Feb 2012 to have their level 2 funding begin May 2012 (to Apr. 2014).
- e) A student who goes directly from a bachelor's program into a PhD program (starting Jan. 2011), who was successful in the Level 1 competition (Feb. 2010) and received permission to defer their start date by 1 term (start in Jan. 2011 instead of Sept. 2010) can hold their Level 1 award for 2 years (until Dec. 2012). They may apply for Level 2 funding before the end of their 2nd year in the program (Feb. 2012), and if successful they could begin their Level 2 award in Jan. 2013 (in this case the student has already received permission from the Associate Dean to deviate from the normal award start date). This student could apply as late as Feb 2012 to have their level 2 funding begin Jan. 2013 (to Dec. 2014).

Level 2 Scenarios

2. Level 2 funding only (Remember: The Faculty of Graduate Studies does not fund students past year 4 in a Doctoral program):

- a) A student applying in the Feb. 2010 Level 2 competition who, if successful, will begin their award in Sept. 2010 must not have begun their PhD program earlier than Sept. 1, 2009 if they wish to receive 36 months of funding, or have not begun the PhD program before Sept. 1, 2008 if they wish to receive 24 months of funding.

Start Date of PhD Program	Earliest Level 2 Start Date	Earliest Level 2 Application Date	Level 2 End Date	Funding Window in PhD program
May 2010	May 2010	Feb. 2010	April 2012	Max. to end of year 4
Sept 2010	Sept. 2010	Feb. 2010	Aug. 2012	Max. to end of year 4
Jan 2011	Jan. 2011	Feb. 2010	Dec. 2012	Max. to end of year 4

Start Date of PhD program	End of year 4	Latest Application Date for 2 year Award	Latest Start Date for 2 year Award	Latest Application Date for 3 year Award	Latest Start Date for 3 year Award
May 2010	April 2014	Feb. 2012	May 2012	Feb. 2011	May 2011
Sept. 2010	Aug. 2014	Feb. 2012	Sept. 2012	Feb. 2011	Sept. 2011
Jan. 2011	Dec. 2014	Feb. 2012	Jan. 2013	Feb. 2011	Jan. 2012

- b) A PhD student beginning her/his program in May 2010 who did not receive Level 1 funding will be eligible to apply in the Level 2 competition as early as Feb. 2010. While scholarships for successful applicants in the Feb. 2010 competition normally begin in Sept. 2010, in this case permission from the Associate Dean to begin the scholarship one term early (May 2010) would have to be requested. In this case the award would run from May 2010 to Apr. 2013 (3 years). The student could apply as late as Feb. 2012 and if successful the award would run from May 2012 to Apr. 2014 (2 years).
- c) A PhD student beginning her/his program in Jan. 2011 who did not receive Level 1 funding will be eligible to apply in the Level 2 competition as early as the Feb. 2010 competition. While scholarships for successful applicants in the Feb. 2010 competition normally begin in Sept. 2010, in this case permission from the Associate Dean to defer the scholarship 1 term (to Jan 2011) would have to be requested. In this case the award could run from Jan. 2011 to Dec. 2013 (3 years). The student could apply as late as Feb. 2012 and if successful the award would run from Jan. 2013 to Dec. 2014 (2 years).