



# Memorandum

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TO: Senate  
FROM: Professor Fabrice Labeau, Deputy Provost (Student Life & Learning)  
SUBJECT: Scholarships & Student Aid Annual Report to Senate  
DATE: May 11, 2022  
DOCUMENT #: D21-6

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Sustainability is taken into account in ensuring support for scholarships and student aid.

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IMPACT OF  
DECISION AND  
NEXT STEPS

N/A

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MOTION OR  
RESOLUTION  
FOR APPROVAL

This item is presented for information.

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APPENDICES

Appendix A: 2020/21 Report on Scholarships and Student Aid

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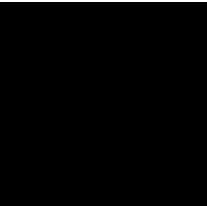
# Report on Scholarships & Student Aid 2020/21

April 2022

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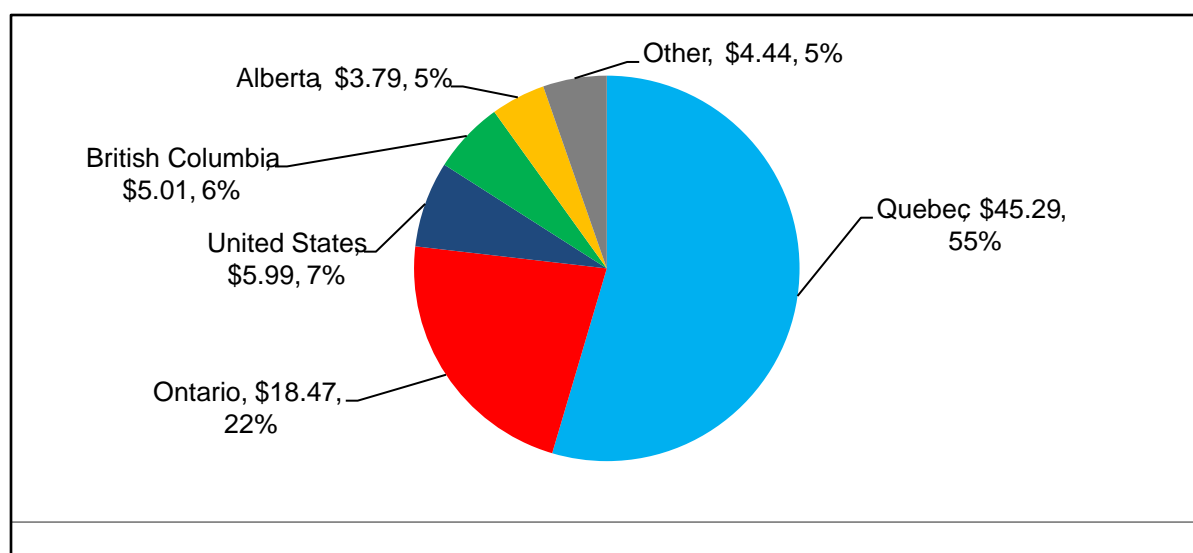
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## GOVERNMENT STUDENT FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

Figure 1 shows the breakdown of \$2.98M government aid by major jurisdiction. Approximately 4% is non-repayable grants. While the number of recipients decreased by 8.3% over the prior year, the amount of government aid increased by 4.3%. The decline in government aid applicants across nearly all jurisdictions is likely COVIDed as many students studied remotely from their family home, and/or had saved federal benefits such as CERB and CESB. As a result, a proportion of students receiving government aid to help fund their studies dropped to 23% of full-time degree students with access to Canadian or U.S. government aid programs.

Figure 1 Government aid (grants and loans) by jurisdiction, all students, in millions, \$2.98M total



## McGILL NEED-BASED SUPPORT

Adequate student financial support is a key component towards attracting a diverse student body, especially for students with significant need. Substantial increases in funding for McGill financial aid programs are bringing us closer to our goal of ensuring all qualified students can gain access to McGill, regardless of their financial circumstances.

Growth in McGill's need-based aid programs is made possible by the University's commitment to set-aside a portion of net new revenue derived from tuition increases for student financial support. As depicted in Figure 2, the 2020/21 central allocation of \$1.2M represents an increase of 9.8% over the previous year. Tuition set-aside budget is confirmed at \$13.2M for 2021/22 and \$15.6M for 2022/23.

## Figure 2      Needbased Aid Allocated from Tuition Sides

Funding for students is further enhanced by generous alumni and donors and due to the efforts of University Advancement (UA) and the faculties. Also noteworthy that McGill students makesignificant contributions in support of students in financial need often with matching contributions from the University, including but not limited to:

- x Student Society of McGill University through the SSMU Access Bursary Fund and the World University Service of Canada (WUSC) Student Refugee Program
- x Post Graduate Students Society through the PGSS Need Based Bursary Program
- x The Arts Undergraduate Society through AUS Work Study Program and the AUS Enriched Educational Opportunities Bursary Program.
- x The Science Undergraduate Society through the SUS Work Study Program

The Scholarships & 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 2020.



## TYPES OF MCGILL NEED-BASED SUPPORT (for degree students)

McGill offers several programs to assist students in need, which are available to ~~all~~ (or “deemed fulltime”<sup>1</sup>) students in degree programs: bursaries, ~~loans~~ that are interest-free during studies, a Work Study Program, tuition fee deferrals. There are also special undergraduate bursary programs linked to admissions and mobility for ~~off~~ campus experiences.



## In-Course Bursary Program

For undergraduates, In-Course bursaries meet their ongoing needs. Entrance bursary recipients tend to return for aid in subsequent years, but there are also students with newly emerging financial difficulties in their upper years of study seeking support for the first time. This was especially the case due to COVID. Appendix 1 shows an increase of 28.6% in undergraduate In-Course bursary dollars and an increase of 64% in the number of undergraduate recipients compared to the prior year.

Graduate students may also apply for In-Course aid for unanticipated financial difficulties, emergencies or temporary interruptions in graduate funding. Appendix 1 shows an increase of 38.6% in bursary dollars and a 17% increase in the number of graduate recipients compared to the prior year. While the majority of this envelope continues to be directed to those receiving government aid who have dependent children or are in their final year of study, there is a steady increase of recipients who do not fit this typical profile. The proliferation of recipients is connected to urgent pandemic-related needs.

Overall, the combined spending of all bursaries for all students in 2020/21 was 24% higher than in the previous year. Thanks to increased funding, the University had the ability to respond to students in financial need with higher amounts of aid.

Pandemic response In response to the economic impact of COVID on students, the University provided dedicated funds to assist with relocation, quarantine, tools for remote studies, out-of-pocket expenses related to cancelled mobility opportunities, unexpected job loss and so on due to the pandemic. For FY20 and FY21 combined, 56% of these funds were provided by Quebec's Ministry of Education and 36% of funds were raised by University Advancement towards COVID Student Emergency Bursaries, thanks to the generous support of.

In 2020/21, 1289 unique students received COVID-aid amounting to \$2,781,874. This compares to 404 unique students receiving \$722,983 in the prior year from March campus closures to fiscal year end of April 30, 2020. Considering all COVID-aid cumulative to date, undergraduate/graduate distribution was 71%/29%, with 97% of all aid in the form of non-repayable bursaries. 63% of dollars went to international students, many of whom were not eligible for federal relief programs.

## McGill Loans

Loans while not the preferred form of aid, continue to be essential. They are used both to establish higher packages of aid for students who are not indebted through government student loans as well as to bridge funding. For example, many short-term loans were issued to government aid recipients who experienced payment delays, and these interest-free loans were repaid once their funding was in hand.





## 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 the 2020/21 cycle, approximately 46% of entrance need-based dollars were offered to non-



## Undergraduate Faculty/Department Awards

While entrance scholarships are an effective tool to attract the best students to McGill, In Course awards recognize meritorious achievement during studies. This category not only includes faculty administered scholarships, prizes and convocation awards, but also stipends paid from research grants as well as awards from granting agencies. This complete picture as shown in Appendix 1, represents a total value of \$2.7M

LoranScholarships

McGil has welcomed the most

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## 2020/21 Report on Scholarships & Student Aid Appendix 2

The Scholarships & Student Aid team is privileged to witness the vital difference based aid makes in students' lives on a daily basis. Below are several examples out of countless written thanks received from financial aid recipients 2020/21:

"I am writing to sincerely thank you and your team for the help I received. Even though my situation was unique and challenging, we were able to reach a solution with remarkable speed thanks to you and the generous donors. I can only express gratitude and reiterate on how proud I am to have graduated from McGill I."

"I would like to express my sincere gratitude to you and [your team] for offering me the SSMU Access Bursary. [...] Thank you very much for your recognition and the effort for supporting as many students as possible financially on their academic journey. I am also deeply touched by the student-helping-student initiative of the SSMU Access Bursary, and I commit to bringing the spirit of this bursary with me to my future academic and professional pursuits. "

" , GRQ·W NQRZ LI \RX UHPHPEHU PH EXW \RX LQWHUWLHZHG PH EDFN LQ \$XJ recommendation I received a huge amount of bursary in November that changed my life. I had previously emailed you, but I was thinking about the impact you had in my life in the past few days and just wanted to let you know how grateful I am. Since the time I received the aid I have been fully IRFXVHG RQ P\ VWXGLHV JRW \$µV ODVW VHPHVWHU DQG ,·P GRLQJ YHU\ Z well. I have my panic attacks, as a result of anxiety, under control and all this because of your great help."

"I wanted to thank you so much for all of the guidance and help y [ap 05u051axiwhole, has been nothing short of amazing.

"I am graduating in May and I am so thankful for all the help the student aid office has given me throughout my studies at McGill. [...] You do great things for the students at McGill. You make us feel comfortable and secure, and we know how much you care. It has truly been a hard time with the pandemic as well and I know that you are trying your best to help us. Thanks again. "

"I wanted to thank you from the bottom of my heart for your support and also advise that when I am more on my feet financially, I will be making contributions to your office as well . The impact of your work and that of your colleagues on the lives of students with limited resources for schooling is absolutely enormous and I would not be in my current research position, able to support my daughter financially as a single working mother, without your aid and guidance. "

"With all the uncertainty and chaos that is going on in our world since, this bursary was like a lighthouse for me. Usual financial and academic challenges made me realize the value of helping those in need.

You have been a living example of an institution with compassion, and I am pleased to say that I am a living example of the impact you are making in the young generation. I look forward to working with youth as a social worker or with newcomers especially refugees ."



