



Graduate Student Society

Overview and Priorities 2026-27

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GSS Executives



President
Hayley Lawrence



VP Academic
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VP External
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VP Students
Mahder Teffera



Financial Officer
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Graduate Students' Multiple Roles

Students

- Take Courses
- Pay Tuition
- Manage clubs

Staff

- Work as AAs
- Work as TAs
- Work in Work Learn Positions

Faculty

- Conduct Research
- Teach Courses
- Apply for Grants

Minimum Funding

ASK

Establish a UBC-wide annual minimum of \$32,000, for full-time research-based master's students

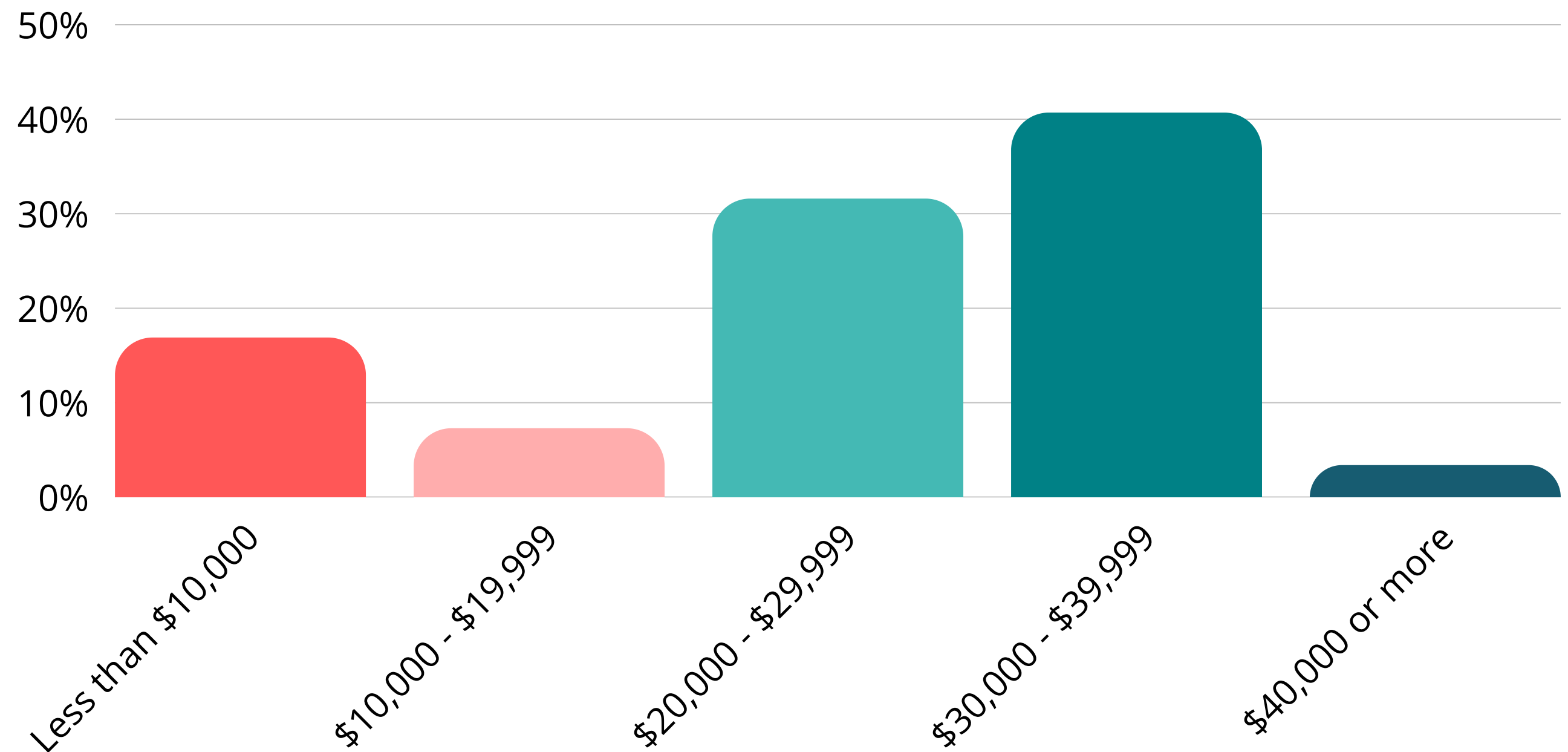
Extend guaranteed minimum funding to fifth year doctoral students

Adjust Minimums with Cost-of-Living Indicators (inflation, rent, tuition)

Minimum Funding for Master's Students

EVIDENCE

Funding Distribution Reported by Research Master's Students
GSS Student Satisfaction Survey (2025-26)



Minimum Funding for Master's Students

PEER INSTITUTION

U of T Arts & Science guarantees master's students, in funded cohorts, minimum packages of \$31,642 in Humanities/Social Sciences and \$32,142 in Sciences, including tuition and fees (Fall 2026).

Minimum Funding for fifth year PhD students

EVIDENCE | Full-time doctoral students' **average** time to graduation is **over 5 years**.

Computer Science: 5.7 years

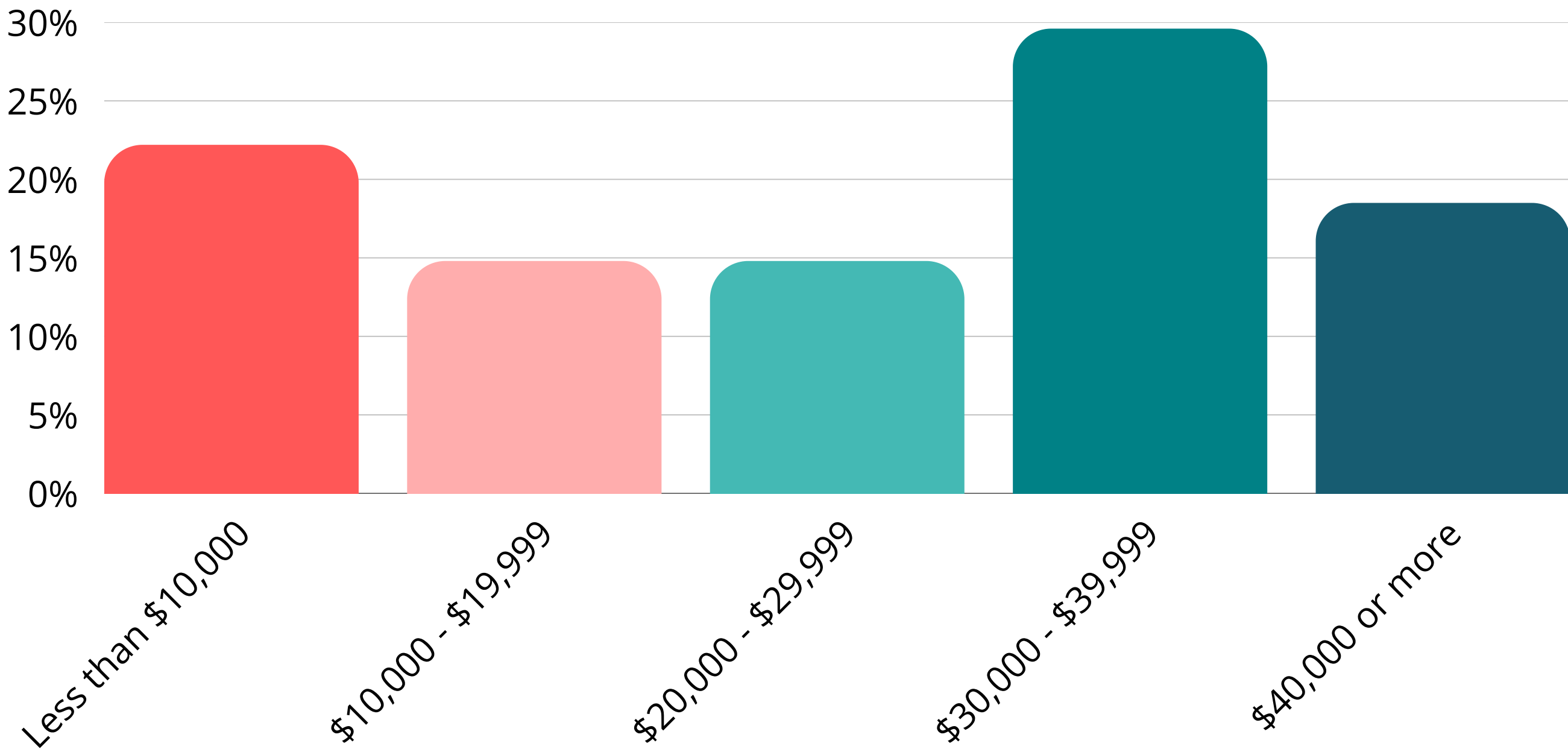
Economics: 6.2 years

Anthropology: 6.7 years

Minimum Funding for fifth year PhD. students

EVIDENCE

Funding Distribution Reported by Fifth Year Doctoral Students
GSS Student Satisfaction Survey (2025-26)



Adjust Minimums with Cost-of-Living Indicators

GAP + EVIDENCE

Gap: Minimum funding policies are fixed to a constant number while cost-of-living indicators (inflation, tuition, rent) keep going up.

Evidence: Funding minimums are advocated for and revised every 4-5 years.

Food Security Initiative

ASK | Allocate \$1.2M in continued multi-year funding for FSI including support for existing student-run programs

GAP + EVIDENCE | **Evidence:** Over 4400 meals served in 2025-26 as part of meal subsidy program. Survey results show that 77.5% said financial stress affects their wellbeing, and 77% of students felt the subsidized meals significantly reduced their financial stress. Over 30% of students accessing meal subsidy program are repeat users.

Thank You

We look forward to collaborating with UBC leadership
to support graduate student wellbeing
and work towards our shared, collective success.