

## **EDST Statement on Graduate Student Initiative (GSI) Funding (2009–2010)**

The Department of Educational Studies (EDST) is committed to graduating students from its thesis-based programs who will make important contributions to their communities, to scholarship, to academic leadership, and who will be competitive in the academic job market in Canada and internationally. A key factor in fulfilling this commitment is recruiting a diverse and talented pool of applicants. We also acknowledge that there is growing competition for outstanding applicants and that UBC must compete for these applicants with other universities.

### **EDST GSI Distribution Eligibility, Criteria, and Procedures**

EDST distributes its GSI funding through balancing principles of excellence and equity. Equal amounts of these funds are distributed to new thesis-based students (PhDs and MAs) who have been selected for admission from the pool of applicants based on application criteria of excellence and fit with the Department's expertise. As such, EDST uses GSI funds as entrance scholarships for purposes of recruiting new students. Students who receive UBC "Four Year Fellowships" are excluded from GSI monies. As such, EDST does not use GSI monies as scholarship "top-ups."

### **Additional EDST Principles**

1. Any process to fund new thesis-based students should not substantially reduce the support to students currently enrolled.
2. Funding decisions are merit-based, but should produce a diverse pool of incoming students inclusive of those from traditionally under-represented groups.
3. A balance should be struck between supporting a few "outstanding" students and distributing more modest support across a greater number of students.
4. Distribution of funds should be administratively efficient, transparent, and fair.
5. Distribution of funds should be flexible to allow admission of students from a wide range of life situations and not place unreasonable requirements on students that would discourage their enrolment or impeded their completion.