

Graduate Financial Support: General Funding Guidelines

I. Summary

These guidelines outline the Graduate School's general funding for graduate students who are within their regular program length, including a summary of the University's commitment to provide full financial support to Ph.D. students over the course of their regular enrollment, definitions of the minimum levels of financial support for Ph.D. students in their respective divisions, and the Graduate School's funding for first year Ph.D. students. Also included are the funding guidelines for in *absentia* students and master's students.

II. Definitions

Regular Enrollment

A student within the defined program length who is in residence and is pursuing degree-related work, completing requirements, and making sufficient academic and/or research progress as specified by the department or program and the Graduate School.

***In Absentia* Enrollment**

A registered student within the defined program length who is pursuing degree-related work, but is NOT in residence for greater than half the term.

Tuition and Fees

The University sets a standard tuition rate for the academic year, and it is applicable to all graduate students in regular enrollment status. All graduate students are required to enroll in the Student Health Plan (SHP). The SHP fee is included in the required tuition and fees.

Stipend

Financial support includes a cost of living component referred to as a stipend, which is intended to cover the estimated living expenses of a single graduate student. A stipend may be paid over 10 months or 12 months, depending upon a student's division and/or type of support. Students are provided summer funding if they are actively engaged in research.

Salary

For Assistantships in Research and Assistantships in Instruction, the annual stipend component is provided to students as a salary and is subject to federal and tax withholding.

University Fellowship

A University Fellowship is a fellowship awarded to new and continuing students in the humanities and social sciences departments. A University Fellowship provides full tuition and a stipend for a 12-month period.

First Year Fellowship

A First Year Fellowship is a fellowship awarded to new students in the natural sciences and engineering departments. A First Year Fellowship includes full tuition and a stipend for the 10-month academic year.

Assistantship in Research (AR)

An AR is an appointment granted by a department in which a graduate student performs research in return for a tuition and stipend (paid as salary) contribution.

Assistantship in Instruction (AI)

An AI is an appointment in which a graduate student provides teaching in return for a tuition and stipend (paid as salary) contribution. AIs may be involved in some combination of classroom teaching, laboratory supervision, and grading in undergraduate courses.

III. Funding Guidelines

Ph.D. Students – Regular Enrollment

Regularly enrolled, degree-seeking Ph.D. candidates are guaranteed funding for all years of regular program enrollment (four or five years, depending on the program), provided they are making satisfactory academic and research progress.

Over a Ph.D. student's years of regular enrollment, this funding may come from a variety of sources (fellowships, teaching, research, and external funding), which in combination provide a minimum level of annual financial support that includes full tuition support (including the SHP fee) and a base stipend amount. The guaranteed base stipend is intended to support the estimated living expenses of a single graduate student during each year of regular enrollment. Stipends are paid monthly, at the end of the month.

If a student is funded by a combination of funding sources from the University (fellowship, teaching, or research), the tuition and stipend components of the total support are adjusted proportionately. If an external award is received, University support will be adjusted accordingly.

As part of its general funding policy, the University provides all of its first year Ph.D. students with fellowships to assist in their transition to full-time graduate study. These fellowships typically include University Fellowships for humanities and social sciences students and First Year Fellowships for natural sciences and engineering students.

In the humanities and social sciences, fellowships continue to provide the base financial support for graduate students for their designated program length. The base stipend amount each year is for a 12-month period. In later years, support may be provided by a combination of teaching and fellowship funds.

In the natural sciences and engineering, the academic department is responsible for providing financial support after the first year of study. This support may be in the form of research, teaching, and/or departmental funds. The base stipend amount is for a 10-month period. Students are provided summer funding if they are actively engaged in research.

Ph.D. Students - *In Absentia* Enrollment

Financial support for a Ph.D. student enrolled in *in absentia* status is determined by the student's adviser and the department, in consultation with the Graduate School. Students considering applying for *in absentia* status are encouraged to discuss funding with their adviser and/or DGS. *In absentia* students are not eligible to be appointed as assistants in instruction. The marginal cost tuition rate for students who are granted *in absentia* status includes the mandatory Student Health Plan fee.

Master's Students

The funding for master's candidates varies by department; any funding that is available to master's candidates is allocated and administered by the relevant departments. In general, the Graduate School does not provide central funding for master's candidates; however, master's students are eligible for Assistantships in Instruction and Assistantships in Research.