

# Graduate Funding Definitions

## Tuition Grant

Definition: Central, Departmental or Grant funded scholarships that can be awarded to graduate students, regardless of whether the student holds an assistantship or not.

The Graduate Hiring Guidelines include these stipulations:

- Tuition grants must not be used as a substitute form of compensation; all compensation must be paid through HR and Payroll.
- Tuition grants may be used to fund the Educational Resource Fee.

Tuition grants are processed through Workflow.

## Tuition Waiver

Definition: Central pool given to units annually to allocate tuition support to graduate students. The University considers this pool forgone revenue. The Graduate Hiring Guidelines include these stipulations:

- Students must hold a GA or GL appointment in order to be eligible for a tuition waiver, but receipt of such an appointment does not guarantee tuition support in any or every semester.
- Tuition waivers must not be used as a substitute form of compensation; all compensation must be paid through HR and Payroll.
- Tuition waivers may be used to fund the Educational Resource Fee.
- The value of the tuition waiver must be described in the offer letter, and cannot exceed tuition and fee charges.
- To be eligible for a tuition waiver, a student must earn a minimum of \$4,000 from academically related activities during the academic year, be hired as a GA or GL, and take a minimum of six hours of graduate course work during each of the fall and spring semesters.
- Fellowship monies may not be included or used when determining a student's eligibility for tuition waivers.

Tuition waivers are processed by submitting to the Office of Financial Aid the Departmental Tuition Waiver Authorization form found on the Student Account's website.

## Stipend

Definition: The pay a student receives as part of the work component of a student's assistantship position.

Stipends for Graduate Research Assistants (GRAs), Graduate Teaching Assistants (GTAs), Graduate Professional Assistants and Graduate Lecturers (GLs) are processed by submitting Electronic Personnel Action Forms (EPAFs) in Banner to Human Resources.

## **Assistantship**

Definition: A university employment position for graduate students. Categories of employment include: Graduate Research Assistantship (GRA), Graduate Teaching Assistantship (GTA) and Graduate Professional Assistantship (GPA). GA's receive a stipend for the work component and are eligible to receive either a tuition grant or tuition waiver.

## **Fellowship**

Definition: Centrally funded student support that does not involve a work component. The Graduate Hiring Guidelines include these stipulations:

- Fellowships should be awarded only to full-time students.
- The fellowship support package should be documented in the offer letter.
- Fellowships are not considered compensation, and no work requirement may be attached to the offer of a fellowship.
- Within the framework described above, academic units may develop additional criteria for the award of fellowships; the criteria should be outlined in the offer letter.
- If a fellowship is renewable, conditions for renewal should be stated in the offer letter.
- All nonimmigrant fellowship recipients, regardless of visa type, must contact OIPS as well as arrange to meet with the international tax coordinator in Fiscal Services, before the award can be processed.

Fellowships are processed by submitting a Scholarship/Fellowship payment form (found on the Fiscal Services website) to Accounts Payable.

## **Scholarship**

Definition: Centrally funded student support that does not involve a work component. Scholarship funding is given to a student to cover part or all expenses associated with attending school, for which neither work nor repayment is required.

Scholarships are processed by submitting a Scholarship/Fellowship payment form (found on the Fiscal Services website) to Accounts Payable.