

FINANCIAL SUPPORT

Teaching Assistantships

Financial support for graduate students is usually in the form of a Teaching Assistantship (TA). The stipend is increased after a student passes the Advanced Exam and essentially completes all course requirements for the Ph.D., provided the student is carrying out teaching responsibilities in a satisfactory way. The stipends for M.S. students are usually lower than those for Ph.D. students.

Teaching Assistants perform services for the Department amounting to about 10 hours per week. The duties can involve working with students at drop-in centers, running recitation sections for a large lecture course, or (more often in the case of advanced students) teaching a small section of an undergraduate course.

Teaching Assistants are required to register for at least 9 credits each semester. In exceptional cases the Graduate Program Director may permit a TA to register for fewer credits, for example if the student has completed all relevant coursework and dissertation credits.

Renewal of Support

Early in the spring semester, each student is asked to indicate whether he or she wishes to be considered for financial support for the following academic year. Awards are usually announced by the middle of March.

Decisions concerning renewal of financial support will be made by the Graduate Program Director and the faculty members of the GAC, in consultation with the Department Head and the Chairperson of the Graduate Admissions Committee. These decisions will depend on the student's academic and teaching performance.

Because all renewals are subject to the competitive aspects generated by the number of positions available and the number of people requesting support, it would be impossible to write a set of necessary and sufficient conditions for a TA to be reappointed. However, students should keep in mind the following guidelines.

1. The Department does not normally support a Master's student longer than two years and does not normally support any student beyond the fifth year. Students entering the doctoral program with a Master's degree will normally not be supported beyond their fourth year.

2. First priority of renewal is given to those students who are making satisfactory progress toward a degree, as measured by coursework and by passing the qualifying examinations in a timely manner. Students who have not passed the Basic or Advanced Exam within the prescribed time limit should not expect to receive financial support from the Department. After a student has passed the Advanced Exam, continued support is based on successful progress toward completion of the dissertation.
3. The academic progress of first-year students will be measured by their performance in the Fall semester courses and the evaluations from their instructors. If this performance is unsatisfactory (e.g., the student's grade point average is below B, or the student has not taken at least two courses in the Department), the GAC may decide to delay a decision on reappointment until after receiving mid-semester reports from the courses the student is taking in the Spring semester.
4. A student's support will not be renewed if his or her teaching performance is unsatisfactory.

Research Assistantships

A variable number of Research Assistantships, funded by external grants, are available through some of the faculty members in the Department.

Graduate School Fellowships

Each year the Department is allowed to nominate some (at most 3) present and/or prospective students for these awards. Before the nomination deadline, the faculty are asked to suggest nominees from among the present graduate students. The GAC and the Graduate Admissions Committee review the credentials of the suggested current and prospective students before making nominations. The competition is University-wide, so it is essential that our nominees be "strong on paper" (e.g., high cumulative averages and G.R.E. scores, some publications, etc.)

Outside Sources of Funding

A very limited number of grants and fellowships are available from various government and private agencies. These are usually awarded on a highly competitive basis, and are in some cases targeted to particular groups, e.g.,

women or minorities. Advanced graduate students with a proven record of achievement should especially seek out such awards. Announcements are usually posted on the Graduate Program bulletin board in the mailroom; for more information, see the Graduate Program Director.

Summer Support

There are some opportunities for summer teaching (through the Division of Continuing Education), though the availability of such positions varies from year to year. The Department has specific guidelines establishing the priorities for filling of these positions.

Every summer the department endeavors to support a limited number of students through Summer Research Stipends. These stipends are intended to support students at the start of their dissertation research. In order to be eligible for these awards students must have completed the Basic and Advanced Exam and formed their dissertation committee.

Summer research support for advanced Ph.D. students may also be available through research grants held by individual faculty members; these sources also vary from year to year.