



DATE: February 1, 2022

TO: Deans, Department Chairs, and Graduate Directors

THROUGH: Jennifer King Rice, Senior Vice President and Provost 

FROM: Steve Fetter, Associate Provost and Dean 

SUBJECT: **AMENDED REVISED Stipend Levels for Graduate Assistants and Fellows for FY 2022**

Effective January 2, 2022, a 1% COLA was added to the previously announced 14.5% increase in the minimum stipend levels for graduate assistantships, bringing the total increase to 15.6% over the prior minimum stipend levels. Together with previous increases, minimum stipends have increased by 38.7% over the last four years. The minimum Step-I 9-month stipend is now \$1200 above the cost of attendance estimated by the Office of Student Financial Aid for mandatory fees, room and board, personal expenses, books and supplies, and transportation and other costs.

The new minimum stipends for Step-I graduate assistants, whether on state or research accounts, are given below with additional guidelines. Please ensure that stipends in your unit comply with these guidelines.

Graduate Assistantship Stipends

- A. Graduate assistants fall into one of three steps. Step I is for first-year graduate assistants without a master's degree; Step II is for continuing graduate assistants and first-year assistants holding a master's degree; and Step III is for doctoral students officially advanced to candidacy. Students should be placed in the appropriate step.
- B. The Graduate School sets a minimum stipend level for Step I. Each unit is to ensure that its Step-I stipend level is equal to or higher than the minimum specified below for 9-, 9.5-, and 12-month assistantships.
- C. Teaching assistants must be offered 9.5- or 12-month assistantships due to responsibilities before and after the last day of classes. Teaching assistants may not be offered 9-month assistantships.
- D. Stipend levels have no caps at any step, and must increase by a minimum of \$500 between steps. The Graduate School encourages programs to offer stipends that substantially increase the likelihood of successful student recruitment and degree completion.
- E. All graduate assistants at a particular step and appointment term in a particular unit should receive the same stipend amount regardless of their payment history or duties.

FY2022 Minimum Stipends for Step I graduate assistantships are as follows:

9-month Assistantship			9.5-month Assistantship			12-month Assistantship		
	Full	Half		Full	Half		Full	Half
Step I	\$ 21,210	\$ 10,605	Step I	\$ 22,388	\$ 11,194	Step I	\$ 28,280	\$ 14,140

Graduate Fellowship Stipends

- A. The Graduate School sets minimum stipend levels for fellowships to qualify for tuition remission. For details, see: <https://www.gradschool.umd.edu/funding/fellowship-information/tuition-award-guidelines>.
- B. Fellowship stipend levels have no caps. The Graduate School encourages programs to offer fellowship packages that substantially increase the likelihood of successful student recruitment and degree completion.
- C. Guidelines for University and Dean's Fellowship increments apply.
- D. No work requirements can be attached to graduate fellowships.

FY2022 Minimum Stipends for Graduate Fellowships remain as follows:

9-month Fellowships	
Full	Half
\$17,500	\$8,750

12-month Fellowships	
Full	Half
\$22,500	\$11,250

As previously announced, for FY2023, budget permitting, the intention is to raise the minimum stipend for Graduate Fellowships as follows:

9-month Fellowships	
Full	Half
\$18,750	\$9,375

12-month Fellowships	
Full	Half
\$25,000	\$12,500

International Students on Assistantships or Fellowships

International students offered 9- or 9.5-month assistantships or fellowships must show proof of private financial resources for the remainder of the year or must be provided additional support for that period. In either case, the total 12-month amount must equal or exceed the amount required by U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services to obtain an immigration visa. For further information, contact International Student and Scholar Services (ISSS) at ext. 4-7740.

For further information regarding stipend guidelines, or other assistance, contact Patricia Woodwell, Director – Finance & Administration (x50814 / paw@umd.edu) or Barbara Rhine, Manager – Fellowships & Tuition Remission (x50371 / baf@umd.edu).