



DATE: January 10, 2019
TO: Deans, Department Chairs, and Graduate Directors
THROUGH: Mary Ann Rankin, Senior Vice President and Provost *Mary Ann Rankin*
FROM: Steve Fetter, Associate Provost and Dean *Steve Fetter*
SUBJECT: **REVISED Stipend Levels for Graduate Assistants and Fellows for FY 2019**

For FY 2019, the minimum stipend level for graduate assistantships was increased by 6%, effective July 1, 2018. Step I stipend levels already at or above this new minimum threshold did not require adjustment but an increase to step II and III stipend levels on July 1, 2018, may have been necessary to maintain a difference between steps.

Effective January 1, 2019, there will be a 2% COLA applied to all stipend levels. Effective April 1, 2019, an additional 0.5% COLA will be applied to all stipend levels. There is no exclusion for these increases. These increases will result in a total increase in the minimum stipend level of 8.66%. Further, effective April 1, 2019, all students holding graduate assistantships will be given a one-time \$500 bonus prorated according to their FTE in PHR (for example, graduate assistants with 0.5 FTE (20-hour per week) appointments will receive a \$250 one-time bonus).

For FY20, the intention is to increase the minimum Step I stipend level by an additional 4%, subject to the availability of funds, which would bring the minimum stipends to 13% above the FY18 stipend level.

The new minimum stipends for Step I Graduate Assistants, whether on state or research accounts, are given below with additional guidelines. Please ensure stipends and stipend levels are in compliance.

Graduate Assistantship Stipends

- A. All 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.
- C. Stipend levels have no caps at any step, and should differ between steps.
- D. All graduate assistants at a particular step, in a particular unit, should receive the same stipend amount regardless of their payment history.

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 as of 7/1/18	\$ 16,212	\$ 8,106	Step I as of 7/1/18	\$ 17,113	\$ 8,556.50	Step I as of 7/1/18	\$ 21,616	\$ 10,808
Step 1 as of 1/1/19	\$ 16,536	\$ 8,268	Step 1 as of 1/1/19	\$ 17,455	\$ 8,727.50	Step 1 as of 1/1/19	\$ 22,048	\$ 11,024
Step I as of 4/1/19	\$ 16,619	\$ 8,309.50	Step I as of 4/1/19	\$ 17,542	\$ 8,771	Step I as of 4/1/19	\$ 22,158	\$ 11,079

NOTE: Teaching Assistants must be offered 9.5- or 12-month assistantships due to responsibilities after the last day of classes; TAs may not be offered 9-month assistantships.

Graduate Fellowship Stipends: 9 and 12-Month

- A. The Graduate School sets *minimum* stipend levels, specified below, 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 strongly 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.

FY2019 Minimum Stipends for Graduate Fellowships are as follows:

9-month Fellowships	
Full	Half
\$15,000	\$7,500

12-month Fellowships	
Full	Half
\$20,000	\$ 10,000

NEW for FY2020, the Minimum Stipends for Graduate Fellowships will be as follows:

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

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

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) or Barbara McElroy-Ferguson, Manager – Fellowships & Tuition Remission (x50371).