



DATE: April 17, 2018

TO: Deans, Department Chairs, and Graduate Directors

THROUGH: Mary Ann Rankin, Senior Vice President and Provost

FROM: Steve Fetter, Associate Provost and Interim Dean

SUBJECT: **Stipend Levels for Graduate Assistants and Fellows for FY 2019**

For FY 2019, the minimum stipend level for graduate assistantships will increase by 6%, effective July 1, 2018. If current Step I stipend levels are at or above this new minimum threshold, no adjustment is required. It may be necessary to increase step II and III stipend levels on July 1, 2018, to maintain a difference between steps. Effective January 1, 2019, there will be a 2% COLA applied to all stipend levels (there is no exclusion for this increase). This increase will result in a total increase in the minimum stipend level of 8.1%.

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 12.4% 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 I as of 1/1/19	\$ 16,536	\$ 8,268	Step I as of 1/1/19	\$ 17,455	\$ 8,727.50	Step I as of 1/1/19	\$ 22,048	\$ 11,024

**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 requirement can be attached to graduate fellowships.

**FY2019 Minimum Stipends for Graduate Fellowships are as follows:**

<b>9-month Fellowships</b>	
Full	Half
\$15,000	\$7,500

<b>12-month Fellowships</b>	
Full	Half
\$20,000	\$ 10,000

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

<b>9-month Fellowships</b>	
Full	Half
\$17,500	\$8,750

<b>12-month Fellowships</b>	
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.

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For further information regarding stipend guidelines, or for other assistance, contact Patricia Woodwell, Director - Finance and Administration (x50814) or Barbara McElroy-Ferguson, Manager – Fellowships and Tuition Remission (x50371).