Grad School Sounds Great!

*But how do I pay for it?*
The Graduate Center

https://gradcenter.arizona.edu/
- Professional Development
- University Fellows Program
- Career Support
- Office of Fellowships
- Graduate Writing Lab
Graduate Center Office of Fellowships (GCOF)

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Goal for Today

Learn how students fund graduate school and three tips for success.

Agenda

1. Overview of funding
   • Internal funding
   • External Funding

2. Tips for funding success
   • Note: Please have something you can use to make notes
Ten Second Talk

1. Everyone who is able, please stand up.
2. Find one person to talk to.
3. Each person share one (or more) answers to the following question:
   • How do students pay for graduate school?
How to Pay for Grad School

Most students use a combination of these resources:
- Loans (federal or private)
- Savings
- Work
- Employee benefits
- Tuition scholarships
- Teaching or research assistantships
- Fellowships from the university (internal funding)
- Fellowships from outside the university (external funding)
The UA Office of Scholarships and Financial Aid provides instructions for applying for financial aid.

- File the FAFSA annually (public schools)
- Give access to the schools you are considering!
- Internal funding and some external funding requires evidence of financial need through the FAFSA
- Use salary calculators to decide if the degree is worth the loan
- [https://financialaid.arizona.edu/apply-for-aid/graduate-professional](https://financialaid.arizona.edu/apply-for-aid/graduate-professional)
Internal University Funding
Sixty Second Scrawl

Write down one (or more) answers to the following questions:

• What are some questions that you should ask your prospective department about funding?
• What is a graduate assistantship?
Talk with Your Prospective Department

*Learn what they typically offer and what funding resources they have.*

Do Background Research

- Typical entry funding within the department
- Large grants and research projects at the department
- Number of students in the grad and UG programs
- Average graduate student debt in the program

Check faculty research interests and reach out to professors whose work interests you.

- Have a brief statement of your own experience and interests prepared, and state why the professor’s research interests you.

Connect with admissions staff and faculty

Inquire politely from the beginning of your talks with departments.
Graduate Assistantships

Teaching
Assist with or teach a discussion section, lab or class, grade papers/tests, hold office hours to assist students

Research
Assist a research project in a lab, grant-funded project, or research center

Outreach
Community engagement, outreach work, often in the community
Investigate University Funding

Some funding is ONLY for incoming students. Examples of recruitment incentives for incoming students include:

- Graduate Access Fellowship – Increase diversity of UA grad students, $2000 - $4000/semester
- Initiative for Maximizing Student Diversity – Underrepresented students in biomed programs
- Sloan Indigenous Graduate Partnership – Native Americans beginning graduate studies in approved STEM programs (may also fund continuing students)
- University Fellows Program – recruit the best students to the UA

Graduate College Funding Opportunities
https://grad.arizona.edu/funding/opportunities
How to find internal funding

Talk with people and use tools!
- Talk with your current department and use the departmental website
- Talk with faculty and other students
- Use the Grad College website: https://grad.arizona.edu/funding/opportunities
- Use Scholarship Universe: https://financialaid.arizona.edu/ScholarshipUniverse
- Honors College ONCS for travel awards: https://oncs.arizona.edu/
External Funding
Twenty Second Talk

1. Everyone who is able, please stand up.
2. Find a new person to talk to.
3. Each person share one (or more) answers to the following questions:
   • Why would a nonprofit or government agency give money to graduate students?
   • What are some activities that a nonprofit or government agency might want graduate students to do?
Types of External Fellowships

• Early graduate awards – NSF GRFP, National Physical Science Consortium, Pickering etc.
  • Training grants awarded by academic units at the university
• Travel awards - archives, conferences, language learning, presenting, research
• Internship, externship, practicum, coop, workshop
• Thesis or dissertation research
• Writing support, usually for dissertations
• Postdoctoral Fellowships
• Awards/Honors/Prizes
Sources of External Awards

- Government funding (federal, state, local)
- International sources (government, foundations)
- Foundation Funding
- Professional organizations
- Other universities
- Commercial/Industry Support
Examples!

These are awarded early and offer multiple years of support

- National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellowship  [www.nsfgrfp.org/](http://www.nsfgrfp.org/)
- GEM Fellowship  [www.gemfellowship.org](http://www.gemfellowship.org)
- Hertz Foundation Graduate Fellowship Award  [https://www.hertzfoundation.org/the-fellowship/apply-for-fellowship/](https://www.hertzfoundation.org/the-fellowship/apply-for-fellowship/)
- Graduate Fellowships for Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics Diversity  [https://qfsd.onlineapplications.net/applications/](https://qfsd.onlineapplications.net/applications/)
- U.S. DOE Computational Science Graduate Fellowship (DOE CSGF)  [www.krellinst.org/csgf/](http://www.krellinst.org/csgf/)
How do students find external fellowships?

Handshake and communication

Take charge of your own search!
Searching GRAPES, Pivot and More

The Grad Center has a collection of resources for finding funding: https://gradcenter.arizona.edu/gcof/resources-finding-funding

- GRAPES is only for grad students and postdocs
- Set up a funding alerts on Pivot and Grant Forward
- Federal agency lists and USAJOBS (Pathways Program & Presidential Management Fellowship)
- Professional Association and Departmental lists
- Our friend Google, your advisor and friends
Tips for Success
Becoming Competitive

• Reflect on your long-term goals
• Pursue what really interests you
• Take advantage of research, service, internship and on-campus funding opportunities
• Get to know your professors and employers
• Maintain a strong academic profile
• Strongly consider language study & travel
• Take on leadership roles on campus and in the community
Letters of Recommendation

- Plan ahead – get to know professors
- Organize and allow plenty of time for the writer
- Ask for a strong letter of recommendation
- Follow-up
Three Things to Do Right Now

**Befriend**
Make a funding friend

**Spreadsheet**
Start/update a funding spreadsheet

**CV**
Update your CV
Best of Luck!
(and use your resources)