UBRP 2019

Grad School Sounds Great . . .
but how do I pay for it?
Funding for Graduate School

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How to Pay for Grad School

Most students use a combination of these resources:

- Loans (federal or private)
- Savings
- Work
- Employee benefits
- Tuition waivers
- Teaching or research assistantships
- Fellowships from the university (internal funding)
- Fellowships from outside the university (external funding)
5 Strategies to Pay for Grad School

• Get an Employer to Pay
  • UA, Military, Raytheon

• Work as a research, teaching or outreach graduate assistant

• Secure a Graduate School or External Scholarship or Fellowship

• Borrow Smart
  • Stafford – 6.6% + 1% fee
  • Grad PLUS- 7.6% + 4% fee
  • Private student loans 6-10.23% or variable 4.5-10.11%
  • Foundation loans P.E.O. ELF 2%

• Tax Credits Etc.
  • Lifetime Learning Credit $2K/yr.
  • Roth IRA
  • Federal Loan Forgiveness Program
Mon dessin ne représentait pas un chapeau. Il représentait un serpent boa qui digérait un éléphant.

J'ai alors dessiné l'intérieur du serpent boa, afin que les grandes personnes puissent comprendre. Elles ont toujours besoin d'explications.
Searchable Databases

https://grad.arizona.edu/ofce/resources-finding-funding

- GRAPES (small database from UCLA)
- Pivot
- Grant Forward
- Fin Aid
- USAJobs Pathways for Students and Recent Grads
- NSF GRF Other Opportunities
- UA Scholarship Universe
Internal Funding
Talk with Your Prospective Department

Make sure you know what they are offering and what they could offer:

- Inquire politely from the beginning of your talks with departments
- If you can, get to know a professor who will advocate for you
- They might have fellowships in the department or be able to nominate you for university fellowships
- Do they have research/teaching assistantships? If so, how long and how many are guaranteed
Teaching and Research Assistant Positions

• Given by departments (including non-academic departments)
• Level of responsibility and pay varies
• Partial or full tuition remission
• Health insurance

Teaching Assistantships
• Payment to teach a discussion section, a lab and sometimes a class, and/or grade papers/tests

Research Assistantships
• Faculty member/department pays you to do research

Other Assistantships
• Outreach assistantships
• Nonacademic units
Investigate Other University Opportunities

Some things are ONLY available to you as an incoming student:

- 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 certain departments
- UA Graduate Fellows
Where Do I Find Information on Internal Opportunities?

Talk with people and use tools!

- Talk with your department and use the departmental website
- Use the Grad College website: https://grad.arizona.edu/funding/opportunities
- Talk with faculty and other students
- Use Scholarship Universe: https://scholarshipuniverse.arizona.edu/suha
External Funding
Types of External Fellowships

- Early graduate awards – NSF GRFP, National Physical Science Consortium, Pickering
- Awards for special populations
- Travel awards - archives, conferences, language learning, presenting, research
- Internship, externship, practicum, coop, workshop
- Thesis or Dissertation Research
- Writing support (usually for writing dissertations)
- Postdoctoral Research
- Awards/Honors/Prizes
Sources of External Fellowships

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

- National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellowship - http://www.nsfgrfp.org/
- Ford Foundation Predoctoral Fellowship - http://sites.nationalacademies.org/pga/fordfellowships/index.htm
- GEM Fellowship - http://www.gemfellowship.org/students/gem-fellowship-program/
- Fulbright U.S. Student Program - http://us.fulbrightonline.org
Example:
Applying for a Fellowship

National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellowship Program
Step 1 – Am I eligible? Does it fit?

Read the program solicitation (announcement)
1. Citizenship
2. Class standing (year, GPA, completed credits, other hoops)
3. Field of Study

Purpose
1. What do they want?
2. What do I want?
Step 2: What are the Benefits?

Three years of support over 5 years
• $34,000* stipend/year
• $12,000 education allowance
  • Balance of tuition & fees paid by university
• Professional development opportunities
  • GROW, GRIP and INTERN
• Enhanced access to cyberinfrastructure resources (XSEDE)
• Career Life Balance (family leave)
Step 3: When and how is it due?

- Oct. 21 – Life Sciences; Geosciences
- Oct. 22 – Computer and Information Science and Engineering; Engineering; Materials Research
- Oct. 24 – Psychology; Social Sciences; STEM Education and Learning
- Oct. 25 – Chemistry; Mathematical Sciences, Physics and Astronomy

Electronic submission and internal reviews
Step 4: What is required in the submission?

- Personal background information usually in a form
- Personal statement (3 pages)
- Graduate research/study plan (2 pages)
- Transcripts
- Names and emails of reference letter writers (3-5)
Step 5: How do they decide?

What are the review criteria?
• Intellectual Merit - potential to advance knowledge
• Broader Impacts – potential to benefit society & contribute

Who is reviewing it and how does that matter?
• Make the link to the criteria for the reviewer
How do I become competitive?

• Academic record and innovative work
• Get to know your professors and employers
• Volunteer, intern, and research
• Strongly consider language study and travel
• Reflect on your long-term goals
• Get involved in leadership roles across campus and in the greater community outside of the UofA
• Pursue what really interests you
Timing Matters

- Apply in Sr. year or 1st/2nd year of grad school for most major fellowships
- Note deadlines and allow 6-12 months for national fellowships! Most occur in fall.
- Make a realistic schedule
- Use summer and class projects to develop ideas
Letters of Recommendation

• Plan ahead – get to know 3-4 professors and others in your field
• Organize and allow enough time for the writer
• Ask ahead of time for a strong letter
• Follow-up
Who Gets These Awards?

Students Like You!
Good Luck!
(and do your research!)
Additional Funding Resources

Opportunities for Aspiring Graduate Students
Other Opportunities for STEM Students

- NSF GRFP Other Opportunities –
  - [http://www.nsfgrfp.org/applicants/other_opportunities](http://www.nsfgrfp.org/applicants/other_opportunities)
  - Undergraduate Support
  - Graduate and Post-Doctoral Support
  - Federal Scholarships, Fellowships, Internships, and Research Opportunities for Students in STEM fields
External Fellowships for Early Stages of Study Over Multiple Years

• Ford Foundation Fellowship
  sites.nationalacademies.org/pga/fordfellowships/index.htm

• Gates Millennium Scholars Program
  gmsp.org/

• GEM Fellowship
  www.gemfellowship.org

• Hertz Foundation Graduate Fellowship Award
  hertzfoundation.org/dx/fellowships/fellowshipaward.aspx

• Jack Kent Cooke Foundation Graduate Scholars
  www.jkcf.org/

• National Physical Sciences Consortium
  www.npsc.org/

• National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellowship
  www.nsfgrfp.org/

• U.S. DOE Computational Science Graduate Fellowship (DOE CSGF)
  www.krellinst.org/csgf/

• Fulbright U.S. Student Program
  us.fulbrightonline.org/
Student Applies Directly

U.S. Department of Energy summer lab internships
EPA STAR
Homeland Security Fellowships
National Defense Science & Engineering Grad Fellowship
National Labs, Observatories, Agencies (summer internships)
National Park Service
NIH R-31 Dissertation Awards
NSF Grad Research Fellowship
Presidential Management Fellowship
DOD SMART
Training Grants
When scouting graduate programs, look for training grants awarded to your institution

• Education – GAANN, FLAS,
• NASA Space Grant
• NSF IGERT, VIGRE, CESUM
• NIH Training Grants
• USDA National Needs Fellowships

Health Professions Funding
Armed Forces Health Professions Scholarship Program (HPSP)
Indian Health Services
National Health Service Corps: NHSC Scholarship & NURSE Corps Scholarship Programs
Foundations Supporting Graduate Education

- AAUW
- Beinecke
- Jack Kent Cooke
- DAAD
- Ford
- Gates
- Hertz
- Inter-American
- Japan
- Kellogg
- Lindbergh
- Mellon/ACLS
- Charlotte W. Newcombe
- P.E.O.
- Rockefeller
- Sloan
- Social Science Research Council
- Spencer
- Tinker
- Whitaker
- Woodrow Wilson
- Zonta – Amelia Earhart
Awards through Other Institutions

• FLAS (San Diego State, U Wisconsin, UA)
• Dartmouth – Thurgood Marshall/Cesar Chavez
• University of Texas Harry Ransom Library
• Library of Congress, Rockefeller Archives, Newberry Library