

External Awards and Graduate Support Commitments

Graduate support is awarded upon admission to provide a secure basis for doctoral students to complete degree requirements over an extended period of enrollment. Students are strongly encouraged to seek funding from sources outside the GSAS to support their research and dissertation writing. Such awards confer distinction on the student and can augment the funding available from the GSAS. When alternate sources of funds become available, GSAS resources must be conserved. At the same time, the GSAS wishes to recognize students' efforts to secure such funding by allowing for an enhancement to their standard level of support.

Any institutional award of funds to a student from sources within or outside the University beyond the standard support offered upon admission is regarded as an external award and is subject to the policy and procedures outlined below, except in cases where the combination of external funds and graduate support commitment is determined by an agreement between the GSAS and the funding entity (e.g., the Jefferson Scholars Foundation).

A student who receives an external award is required to report the award to his or her DGS, who will, in turn, inform the GSAS. Failure to report such an award constitutes misconduct on the part of the student and is subject to disciplinary action. The DGS will develop a revised support plan for the student in consultation with the assistant dean for graduate programs and in compliance with the following guidelines.

External support awarded to fund an itemized budget of research-related expenditures unrelated to general living support will typically result in no reduction to the standard living support provided by the GSAS.

Any portion of an external award designated to cover costs of education will be applied to the student's University fees, University-provided health insurance, and GSAS tuition in that order and to the maximum extent allowed by the funding source.

A student is eligible to receive GSAS fellowship stipend and assistantship wages in combination with externally awarded living support up to a maximum threshold of 130% of the standard living support offered by the student's program that academic year. For example, a student who would normally receive living support of \$20,000 would be eligible to receive up to \$26,000 in GSAS fellowship stipend, assistantship wages and external living support during that period with no reduction in the support provided by the GSAS. Should the combination of all sources exceed the 130% threshold, fellowship stipend from the GSAS will be reduced and, under certain circumstances, wage-earning appointments may be reduced.

It is expected that the student will continue to be appointed to teaching and research assistantships in a manner that is consistent with the terms outlined in the offer of admission and typical to other students in his or her cohort. However, if GSAS fellowship stipend has been withdrawn entirely (or if there is no GSAS fellowship stipend award to reduce) and the combination of wages and external living support continues to exceed the 130% threshold, then the student's appointments as a graduate teaching assistant or as a graduate research assistant can be reduced until the 130% threshold is reached. Both the DGS and the student must agree that the reduction of these obligations is in the student's and the program's best interests. In cases where a stated purpose of the external award is to enable the student to focus entirely on the completion of degree requirements and both the DGS and the student deem the

external living support to be sufficient, the student may forego the standard support offered upon admission in order to eliminate obligations as a teaching or research assistant during the funding period.

A student who receives a multi-year award that provides both sufficient living support and full payment of the student's tuition, fees and health premium for an entire academic year may defer one year of the funding commitment offered upon admission. Such a deferral cannot extend beyond the conclusion of the sixth year of enrollment. In instances where the student's standard support or the external award does not cover the entire aid year, the maximum combined award will be determined by prorating the 130% threshold according to the period when the standard support and external awards overlap.