Admissions and Financial Aid for Assistant and Associate Deans: Financial Aid
George Justice
Vice Provost for Advanced Studies
Dean of the Graduate School
University of Missouri
Financial Aid Overview

- Assistantships
- Fellowships
- Loans
Assistantships

• Research
• Teaching
• “Graduate Assistantships”
Theory of Assistantships

• “Financial Aid”
• “Professional Development”
• At MU, assistantships usually carry full tuition benefit for students
  – Complications of “Graduate Tuition Support Program” (tuition waivers)
• The Rights of Graduate Assistantships
  – Treated as “faculty” at MU
  – The importance of the “offer letter”
Research Assistantships

• Who pays stipend?
  – What are origins of stipend, and why would it matter?
  – Do assistantships carry tuition benefits?

• What is the “FTE”?  

• How many hours responsible?

• Duration of the assistantship
  – How much flexibility should PIs retain in terms of length of offer?
Teaching Assistantships

• “TA” vs. “GI”
• Who pays stipend?
• Who pays tuition?
• FTE: How many courses, how many “hours”?
“Graduate Assistantships”

• Should there be graduate assistantships apart from research and teaching?
• Can administrative work be linked to the professional development of students?
• Competition with administrative/clerical staff
• Tax implications
  – tuition support might be taxable
• Example of the University of Missouri
Fellowships

• Financial Aid
• Recruiting Tool
• External Fellowships
• Internal Fellowships
External Fellowships

- NSF Graduate Research Fellowship Program
- Training grants as “fellowships”
- Fulbright, ACLS and other short-term fellowships
- Ford Foundation; Soros Foundation, etc.
Supplemental Fellowships

• Small amount of money given to departments on competitive basis
• Supplement assistantship/departmental fellowship for first year
University Fellowships

• From endowments/general operating funds
• Individuals nominated by departments
• Judged on individual basis
• Different competitions for PhD and Master’s
• Available funds for underrepresented students
Additional Internal Fellowships

• At the University of Missouri
  – Peace Corps Fellowship Program
  – Bies Travel Scholarship
  – Other research and presentation travel assistance
  – Also assistance provided by graduate student organizations
Loans

• Increasing importance of loans in financing student education, at both master’s and doctoral levels
  – Get to know your Financial Aid director!
  – Graduate certificates: “Gainful Employment” guidelines for the Department of Education
  – Fellowships "count against" amount of loans students can take out

• At MU, Federal loans handled by Financial Aid office

• Cashier’s Office offers short term loans
## Graduate debt at the Univ. of Missouri

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Debt category</th>
<th>Number of graduate students at MU</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Under $50,000</td>
<td>5311</td>
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<tr>
<td>$50,000 to $100,000</td>
<td>608</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$100,000 to $138,500</td>
<td>108</td>
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<tr>
<td>$138,500 to $200,000</td>
<td>48</td>
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<td>$200,000+</td>
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### English PhD students at MU

<table>
<thead>
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<th>Amount of Debt</th>
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<tbody>
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<td>None</td>
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<tr>
<td>Debt up to $25,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>$138,500 to $200,000</td>
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</tbody>
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Questions?

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