



Admissions and Financial Aid for Assistant and Associate Deans: Financial Aid

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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

Debt category	Number of graduate students at MU
Under \$50,000	5311
\$50,000 to \$100,000	608
\$100,000 to \$138,500	108
\$138,500 to \$200,000	48
\$200,000+	1



English PhD students at MU

Amount of Debt	Number of students
None	35
Debt up to \$25,000	17
\$25,000 to \$50,000	8
\$50,000 to \$100,000	11
\$100,000 to \$138,500	5
\$138,500 to \$200,000	2



Questions?

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