

Funding and Allocation of Graduate Research Assistants

Graduate research assistants (GRAs) will be eligible for general fund support for the first two years of training. Support in subsequent years (three, four and beyond) will depend on the availability of research grant support to underwrite the cost of stipends. Departments seeking to recruit GRAs will need to 1) include support for GRAs in research grant submissions, and 2) provide evidence of research funding support in advance of recruiting any GRAs. This policy will become effective as of October 1, 2021.

Exemptions. The Dean shall have discretion to award GRA positions on a limited scale to departments that cannot demonstrate future research support. Exemptions may be awarded based on the following criteria:

- Recruitment of a new faculty member
- Retention of a faculty member
- Other reasonable cause

Communication. Letters to prospective GRAs recruited after October 1, 2021 will need to indicate that general fund support will be available for the first two years only and that continued support beyond the first two years will be dependent on the availability of research grant support. GRAs will be assigned to work only in funded laboratories

Implementation. As of October 1, 2021, any current 2nd, 3rd and 4th year GRAs will be permitted to finish out service under the funding terms established when they were brought on board. First year GRAs, those recruited after January 1, 2021, will receive the same guarantee, however, departments will be asked to use other non-general fund sources for support in years three and beyond.

Role of the Vice Dean for Research and Graduate Programs. The Vice Dean for Research and Graduate Programs will have authority over the recruitment process for GRAs under criteria established under the new policy.

- Funding confirmation will be cross checked with the Research office (Research Administrative Services)
- Recruitment of PhD students will no longer be on a first come, first awarded basis
- For each major extramural support deadline, graduate student support must be requested on submission of the application indicating whether the student is or will be working on the project
- Discretionary GRAs will be allocated based upon the track record of the department in funding and recruiting potential and not distributed as in the past



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