

Graduate Fellowships Policy and Procedures

Overview of Typical Terms and Conditions

Graduate Fellowships are defined as awards by a sponsoring agency external to Georgia State University based on a merit-based competition to an individual graduate student to support their graduate studies. Fellowships differ from graduate assistantships because they are *not* compensation for services or work performed by the student. Fellowships vary in a number of ways. Some are awarded directly to the student; others come to the institution with particular terms and conditions that must be followed. While some fellowships include additional funding that can be used to pay for tuition and other training expenses, others do not. The latter frequently require the institution to waive tuition. Due to Board of Regent's regulations, tuition waivers are only available to those students who hold a graduate assistant appointment.¹ Many fellowship awards come with a condition that funds can not be used as compensation for assigned duties and therefore, can **not** be used to fund a graduate assistantship (GA.). In order to receive a tuition waiver, students need to be appointed as a graduate assistant using non-fellowship funds. This can only occur if the terms and conditions of the fellowship permit fellows to work. Many fellowships allow students to work **only** part-time. For these fellowships, students can not have GA appointments that require more than 10 hours of work per week.

Modifications to Georgia State's Policy on Graduate Tuition Waivers

Georgia State's policy requires students to have at least a GA stipend of \$2,000/semester or \$5,000/year (12-month appointment) to receive a full tuition waiver. Students who have applied for and received a substantial competitively-awarded externally-funded fellowship (>\$10,000 annually) may be eligible for a modification to this policy. On a case by case basis, students may be granted a full tuition waiver if they have a total earnings of a minimum of a GA stipend of \$1,000/semester or \$3,000/year.

Request for this modification must be made in writing by the student's advisor and should include the student's name, social security number, name and amount of the fellowship (with link to program announcement or copy of the program description), and amount and funding source of the proposed graduate assistantship. The request should be approved by the Department's chair and the College Dean, and forwarded to the Associate Vice President for Research for evaluation. Requests will be evaluated based on the amount and prestige of the fellowship. If granted, a memo will be sent to Associate Provost and copied to the student's advisor, chair, and college Associate Dean to allow the student to receive a tuition waiver with a \$3,000 GA stipend.

¹Board of Regents Policy:

704.014 GRADUATE TUITION The regular graduate tuition rates normally shall be charged to all graduate students; however, where a graduate student is classified as a research, teaching, or graduate assistant, the institution may waive all or part of the graduate tuition and/or waive the differential between in-state and out-of-state graduate tuition.”