



Graduate School
UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON

MEMORANDUM

This memo supersedes that of January 17, 2019. After discussion at Dean's Council and subsequent discussion with Human Resources there were four corrections made: 1) 4- or 5-year funding guarantee; 2) the academic (9-month) RA rate; 3) the hourly grader rate; and 4) the academic-year (9 month) fellowship rate.

DATE: 24 January 2019

TO: Deans, department chairs, directors of graduate studies and graduate program coordinators

FROM: Sarah C. Mangelsdorf, Provost *SCM*
Laurent Heller, Vice Chancellor for Finance and Administration *LH*
William J. Karpus, Dean of the Graduate School *WJK*

RE: FY20 Graduate Assistant Stipend Minima and Principles

With the new academic year as well as the new graduate student recruitment process well underway, it is time to start planning graduate assistantship rates for FY20 and this memorandum provides instructions and timeline to inform your planning. The Graduate School, in consultation with the Offices of the Chancellor, Provost and the Vice Chancellor for Finance and Administration, sets the **MINIMUM** rates for all GA titles as well as fellowship appointments.

Programs (with approval from their school/college) are required to determine and submit their FY20 assistantship rates to the Graduate School by February 25, 2019, at <https://goo.gl/forms/UJZJzCxXtvVXxRAT2>. The actual graduate assistant stipend amounts (per 50% appointment) should be entered in the worksheet. For example, if you plan to pay TAs in your graduate program the minimum stipend, you enter that number. If you plan to supplement the minimum TA stipend with gift funds, enter the total dollar amount. Programs that intend to set stipends at the campus minimum rate will still need to submit the form to verify this to the Graduate School.

As you will recall, the new procedure allows programs to set market stipends for all graduate assistantship (GA) mechanisms (RA, TA, and PA) and makes it simpler for prospective graduate students to compare offers from UW-Madison and other institutions, thus helping us compete for top students. **We now use adjustments to the dollar amount, rather than to appointment percentage, to set stipends.**

The following principles should be considered as you determine rates for FY20.

- Graduate programs/departments will work with their school/college dean's office to establish rates at or above the campus minima, allowing for flexibility to accommodate different market factors while maintaining the principle that graduate students will not get a stipend cut from the previous year.
- The Graduate School's *Academic Policies and Procedures* describes policy on [maximum levels of appointments](#) and [concurrent appointments](#).

Office of the Dean

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- **Graduate students must be paid the GA rate associated with the academic program in which they are enrolled.** If a graduate student is appointed as a GA in a different department, they are paid at the rate associated with their academic program home.
- Departments/programs who have not done so to date are highly encouraged to **provide written offers of 4 or 5-year funding packages** for admissions decisions made to applicants who will enroll in fall 2019.
- The FY20 minimum rate for TA appointments shown below reflects an **8.99% increase** over current fiscal year. For Fund 101-funded TA-Standard students, the Budget Office will provide a permanent supplement in your 2019-20 budget planning allocations to cover the cost of the increase.

The new graduate student **MINIMUM** funding rates are as follows:

Teaching assistantship (per 50% appointment)

Academic: \$20,000

Project assistantship (per 50% appointment)

Academic: \$18,350

Annual: \$22,427

Research assistantship (per 50% appointment)

Academic: **\$20,341**

Annual: \$24,816

PA grader/reader

Hourly rate: **\$21.57**

University Fellowship, Advanced Opportunity Fellowship and Wisconsin Distinguished Graduate Fellowship

Academic: **\$22,140**

Annual: \$27,000

The Graduate School will review rates in all categories reported by departments and programs and communicate back to programs by March 1, 2019.

Please share this memo with others to whom it is relevant. Should you have any questions, please contact Scott Carter (scott.carter@wisc.edu) or LaRuth McAfee (laruth.mcafee@wisc.edu)

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