

## Graduate Student Funding Guidelines - University of Kentucky Department of Physiology

Last updated on 11 May, 2017 by Ken Campbell, PhD, Director of Graduate Studies

### Overview

The Department of Physiology invests ~\$600,000 per year in its graduate student training program (~20 students with expenses averaging ~\$30,000 per year). Most of this money is allocated to stipends (currently \$25,000 per student per year) and comes from research grants awarded to Physiology faculty. The new T32 training grant awarded to Bret Smith, PhD will provide a further ~\$160,000 per year for Physiology students who join the program from 2017 to 2021. However, when the department accepts a new PhD student, it commits to covering their expenses throughout their entire training. The department therefore needs to be able to cover student-related costs in cases where the primary advisor loses their independent funding.

This document summarizes the department's current funding guidelines and was developed to improve transparency. The Chair reserves the right to adjust these guidelines in limited instances where he/she judges that it will be in the best interests of the department.

### Expectations

- The primary mentor is expected to cover all student-related expenses from their research awards.
- Mentors should not accept a new student unless they have guaranteed funding for at least the first two years of their trainee's PhD.
- Mentors who wish to accept a new student should obtain initial financial approval from the Chair before seeking general approval for the student at a full faculty meeting.
- Mentors must make supporting their student trainees their top priority if research funding becomes limited.

### Costs

The costs incurred by the primary mentor depend on numerous factors including the student's pre/post qualifying exam status, in-state/out-of-state residence status, and the number of classes in which the trainee is enrolled. Post-qualifying students are typically easier to support because they normally have lower tuition costs.

An estimate of typical costs (based on 2016/2017) is shown below.

Student status	Stipend	Tuition	Other costs:	Total
Pre-qualifying	25,000	\$11,726 (9 credit hours, in-state)	\$2,166	\$38,892
Post-qualifying	25,000	\$2,560 (2 credit hours, in-state)	\$2,166	\$29,726

### Notes

- 1) Other costs include health insurance expenses and miscellaneous costs (e.g. Johnson Center fees) required by the university.
- 2) First year (IBS) costs are funded by the Dean's office. The department is no longer charged back for accepting an incoming student.
- 3) Pre-qualifying students must enroll for at least 9 credit hours. Post-qualifying students can maintain their status by enrolling for just 2 credit hours.

- 4) Bridge funds awarded to a faculty member by the College of Medicine cannot be used to support a student's stipend or tuition. These costs can be covered from matching funds provided by the department to bridge-supported faculty.
- 5) Some research grants (e.g. American Heart Association Fellowships) do not cover the full costs of tuition. These expenses can sometimes be covered by Dean's Scholarships which are allocated by the Graduate School in response to petitions from the Director of Graduate Studies.
- 6) Dean's Scholarship funds are typically allocated by the Chair with the priority being given to faculty who have primary appointments in Physiology (and therefore contribute financially to the department via indirect costs). The department received a total of \$25,828 through this mechanism in Spring 2017.

### **Questions and/or concerns**

Faculty who wish additional information or who have concerns about the implementation of these guidelines should contact the Director of Graduate Studies and/or the Chair.