

FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

Financial support for graduate students is important to both recruitment and retention efforts, and as such, forms a vital part of the graduate coordinator/director's arsenal of knowledge. You will want to include updated information on available assistance within your program when you send out your recruitment packets, and be vigilant in posting current financial aid information on your local bulletin boards and web pages.

In recent years, support for graduate students at our university has totaled millions of dollars. This includes government loans, assistantships, scholarships and grants, fee waivers, and veterans benefits. The following summarizes some of the main features of our financial assistance offerings.

GENERAL FINANCIAL AID AVAILABLE THROUGH THE UNIVERSITY

Scholarships

The Scholarship Office awards over a thousand scholarships that range from \$100 to almost \$8000. These awards provide recognition and financial assistance to graduate and undergraduate students. All awards are dedicated to students enrolled at California State University, Fresno.

See <www.csufresno.edu/scholarships/>.

Loans and Grants

Perkins Loan The Perkins Loan is a low-interest (5%) loan, awarding graduate students up to \$6,000 per year to a maximum of \$40,000, to be repaid nine months after the student ceases attending school at least 1/2 time.

Federal Family Education Loan Program (FFELP) Federal Stafford Loans are the Financial Aid Office's major form of self-help aid. Federal Stafford Loans are available through the Federal Family Education Loan Program (FFELP). Other loan types are also available. Terms and conditions of loans are similar with major differences being the source of the loan funds, some aspects of the application process and repayment plans. Regardless of loan program, the process begins with the FAFSA. For more information, go to <www.csufresno.edu/studentaffairs/programs/financialaid/studentpages/Loans/>.

State University Grants (SUG) Graduate students who are California residents in regular university degree programs and who demonstrate financial need can receive the SUG to assist with the payment of University fees. The SUG can *only* be used to pay State University Fees.

Loans and Grants (continued)

California State University, Fresno Emergency Loan The university operates an Emergency Loan Fund to assist students who need up to a maximum of \$600 for unanticipated educational expenses. These loans have to be repaid by the due date specified on the contract. Information regarding this program may be found on the Financial Aid Office Web site:
<www.csufresno.edu/studentaffairs/programs/financialaid/studentpages/Loans/emergency.shtml>.

Tuition Waivers (International Students)

College/School Tuition Waiver (Dean's Scholarship) Each college/school receives an annual tuition waiver of 30 credit hours to be used for recruiting new international students. Faculty members nominate candidates on the basis of academic promise and financial need. Awards can be given to one student or split among several students during the academic year. Contact your dean's office for further information.

New Student Tuition Waiver Scholarships (NSTW) Tuition waiver Scholarships (usually between two and five units) are available for qualified students on non-immigrant visas who are new to the university (approximate value \$732 to \$1,830). US permanent residents and US citizens are NOT eligible. These scholarships are available only for the first year and may be awarded for one semester or spread out over two semesters.
Due dates are: March 15 for fall semester; October 1 for spring semester
Criteria for this award are: evidence of strong scholarship, leadership qualities, and a willingness to represent your home country and school. Enrollment as a regular university student in ten units, not including Extension units, is required for each semester of this scholarship.
For more information, go to <<http://www.csufresno.edu/issp/internationaladmissions/fees/index.shtml>>.

Application and Eligibility

- Application varies with the type and source of financial aid. Students may be directed to the university's Financial Aid Office Web site, <www.csufresno.edu/studentaffairs/programs/financialaid> for specific information, or they may consult the DGS Web site under e-Pubs for the Financial Aid Sourcebook for the Graduate Student. The all-purpose Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) form is available online and must be filed electronically. A FAFSA worksheet is available on the Web to use as a guide prior to going online to file the FAFSA application.

- In general, qualifying students must show evidence of need and/or a high level of competence in their chosen field, while continuing students must additionally be in good standing and maintain satisfactory progress toward their degree objective throughout their tenure. Qualification criteria and submission procedures vary greatly with the awards, however.

Deadlines

Typical deadlines fall around March 1, for the following year, but earlier or later dates may apply. Scholarship awards, for example, are typically filed the first of September through November 30. Check the university calendar for current academic year deadlines.

FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE OPPORTUNITIES AVAILABLE THROUGH THE DIVISION OF GRADUATE STUDIES

The following is a brief summary of financial fellowships, grants, and awards, as well as Teaching Associateships and Graduate Assistantships, available for graduate students through the Division of Graduate Studies. Applications and more information may be obtained from the Division of Graduate Studies and our Web site.

Scholarships/Fellowships/Grants

California Graduate Equity Fellowships (GEF)

These fellowships enable students from historically underrepresented backgrounds to pursue their graduate degree with financial assistance in amounts up to \$4,500 per academic year for four semesters. (Click on “Financial Aid” on the DGS Web site for information).

Ronald E. McNair National Fellowships

This fellowship is designed to encourage promising college students to pursue doctoral study. The program prepares students by acquainting them with advanced-level research under the mentorship of a faculty member. Stipends, up to \$2,900, are based on successful participation in the McNair program. See <www.csufresno.edu/mcnair>.

President’s Graduate Scholarships

Two \$3,500 merit-based awards are available each year with the possibility of recipients qualifying for a second year of the award, depending upon maintaining satisfactory progress toward the degree.

Scholarships/Fellowships/Grants (cont.)

Robert and Norma Craig Graduate Fellowship	<p>These fellowships, awarding student stipends up to \$1,000 each, provide benefits for both graduate students and faculty. Eligible projects will include such mentored activities as research, instructional assistance, or other faculty-assigned duties. Applications are due at the announced deadline, and must be jointly developed by the faculty member and the graduate student(s).</p>
Provost's Graduate Scholarship	<p><i>Note for 2009-10: Due to budget cuts, this program is not currently being funded.</i></p> <p>These scholarships (\$1,000 to \$3,000) are awarded by programs to new graduate students to assist them with the costs associated with graduate school. Graduate programs may request these scholarships for recruiting new graduate students from the Division of Graduate Studies each fall.</p>
California Pre-Doctoral Program (Sally Casanova Scholars)	<p>This program is designed to increase the diversity of the pool of potential faculty by supporting the doctoral aspirations of students who have experienced economic and educational disadvantages. Selected scholars work closely with their faculty sponsor to develop an overall plan for their career objectives. The award is \$2,000 for the scholar and \$1,000 for the faculty.</p>
Graduate Student Research and Creative Activities Merit Awards	<p>Graduate Student Research and Creative Activities Merit Awards in amounts up to \$1,000 are available on a competitive basis. The merit and scholarship of a student's proposed thesis, dissertation, or project requirement is the major consideration for these grants. See the "Financial Aid" section of the DGS Web site.</p>
Chancellor's Doctoral Incentive Program	<p>The Chancellor's Doctoral Incentive Program (CDIP) provides financial assistance to graduate students who show promise of becoming strong candidates for CSU instructional faculty positions. The purpose of the program is to increase the pool of individuals with the qualifications, motivation, and skills to teach the diverse student body in the California State University. It is a competitive program directed by the California State University but open to doctoral students across the country.</p> <p>Applications are available in November. The campus deadline falls in mid-February.</p> <p>Should you have questions about this program please contact Chuck Radke in the Division of Graduate Studies.</p>
Travel Grants	<p>Graduate students who have been invited to present a paper or poster at a major professional association or society meeting are eligible for these awards. See the Financial Aid section of the DGS Web site for more information (subject to the availability of funds).</p>

Assistantships and Associateships

Graduate Assistantships (GAs) Typical assignments include research, grading papers, library searches, and cataloging. Stipends range from approximately \$1,000 to \$9,000 for the academic year. GAs are selected by the programs.

Teaching Associateships (TAs) TAs work under the direction of faculty members and engage in such functions as supervising laboratories and other small groups, preparing course materials and evaluating student work. Stipends range from approximately \$1,000 to \$12,000 for the academic year. TAs are selected by the grad program.

Tuition Waivers

Nonresident Tuition Waivers A select number of nonresident tuition waivers are available for outstanding graduate students who demonstrate the potential to make significant academic and professional contributions in their disciplines and the graduate program. Tuition waiver recipients are recommended to DGS by program coordinators/directors.

PUBLISHED RESOURCES

Where should you send students who are looking for further information about possible financial assistance? The following basic list will prove useful:

- The “Admissions, Registration, Fees, and Financial Assistance” section of the California State University, Fresno General Catalog.
- The Henry Madden Library Reference Room
- The Division of Graduate Studies office award brochures and announcements for currently offered scholarships, awards, and fellowships on the DGS Web site (Click on the “Financial Aid” button).
- The university’s Financial Aid Office Web site:
<www.csufresno.edu/studentaffairs/programs/financialaid>
- Departmental and college/school bulletin board and Web page announcements

ADVISING TIPS

- Students need to apply early, and fill out all requisite forms in a timely, complete manner.
- Applicants should request any faculty letters of reference well before the application deadline, and provide all necessary background information.
- Applicants should read and follow carefully the hints listed in the Graduate Division's electronic publication (e-Pub) financial aid sourcebook, *Financial Assistance for the Graduate Student*, on our Web site.