Financial Support

6.1 Graduate Assistantships: RAs and TAs

From http://www.physics.uiowa.edu/graduate/financial_aid.html

We make every effort to pay our graduate students an attractive stipend. Most students have what is called a 50% appointment, with the following stipends:

Stipends for 9-month Academic Year, 2014-2015*

TA $19,650
RA $19,650

Stipends for summer 2013

TA or RA $4,366 (typical for 2-month appointment)

For updated stipend information, contact us or visit our website.

Students with at least a 25% appointment:

- Receive health insurance benefits in the form of the Graduate Student Health Insurance Allowance.
- In 2012-2013 receive a full tuition scholarship but are responsible for fees. See more at (www.registrar.uiowa.edu).

* The current COGS agreement mandates a $400 increase for all returning Graduate Assistants, effective 2014-15.

Additional tuition support

The Department may offer tuition support to highly qualified students with good GRE subject scores and strong grade point averages. All students who apply for admission are automatically considered for this tuition support.

The University will classify you as a resident for tuition purposes during the semesters you hold an appointment of 25% time or greater. However, your classification with the University as a whole will remain unchanged if you are a Nonresident; you will only be considered a resident for tuition purposes. Full-time resident tuition and mandatory fees for Graduate College students in 2014-15 are $4609.00 per academic session (spring or fall) or $9218 per academic year. The technology fee of $234.50 per session (included in the above figure) is not applied to students holding a 25% or
greater assistantship. You will be awarded a full tuition scholarship at the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences resident rate, which will be applied as a credit toward your tuition bill. For enrollments of fewer than 9 semester hours, the tuition scholarship will be prorated accordingly. If you hold TA/RA appointments in more than one department, your tuition bill will be credited only once.

**About TA positions**

- Most TAs have a half-time (50%) appointment.
- The most common assignment is for TAs to teach three sections of a physics laboratory, each with three hours of contact with students, or four sections of an astronomy lab, each with two hours. These TAs work under the supervision of the laboratory coordinator and the professor in charge of the course.
- Other TAs serve as tutors, proctors, or graders.
- A half-time appointment requires up to 20 hours per week of service to the department. At the same time you can take a full load of courses, up to 12 semester hours.

Some TAs also receive support as an RA. It is common for a student to be supported as a half-time TA during the academic year and as an RA for two months during the summer. Some students are supported during the academic year partly as a TA and partly as an RA. For example a student supported with a one-quarter-time TA position and a one-quarter RA position would serve up to 10 hours per week as a TA and serve as an RA in the remaining time.

**Priority for continued financial support**

The Department has a limited number of graduate teaching assistantships available. Priority for TA appointments will be given to students in their 1st through 6th years in the Department. After the 6th year students will be given a lower priority for TA support.
6.2 Travel Funds for graduate Students

Departmental Funds

The Department of Physics and Astronomy has some funds from gifts to the Department through the University of Iowa Foundation to help pay for graduate student travel to summer schools and to present research at conferences.

Requests for funding should go to the DEO. You will need to explain the rationale for this support, as well as provide a travel budget. The department does not routinely cover the cost of meals during the travel period. The travel funding request should be submitted as soon as possible prior to the trip. Students should also seek funding from other sources including the Graduate College (http://gss.grad.uiowa.edu/funding/gss-travel-funds) as applicable. If approved and upon return, a short paragraph about what the student did on the trip and why it was important (or useful) for them to go, the impact of the trip or impressions of the meeting, must be sent to the DEO and Heather Mineart. The report will be used to let donors know how UI Foundation funds are used in the Department.

Other Sources

A graduate student can apply to the Graduate Student Senate for travel funds - forms can be gotten from the Graduate College or downloaded from the web - http://www.uiowa.edu/~gss/travel/index.html

You may also want to try contacting Student Government at 335-3860; they have had some travel funds in the past.
6.3 Hallway (Emergency) Loans


Hallway (Emergency) Loans are zero-interest short-term loans available to students during the fall, winter, spring, and summer sessions. Loans are due at the end of the session in which they are received. Students must be enrolled for the current session when they are applying for the loan. If a student is applying for a loan during the summer sessions, they may be enrolled in any one of the summer sessions (three-week, six-week, or eight-week sessions).

Available loan amounts are $200, $350, or $500. The maximum loan amount is $500 per session. The loan funds will be credited to the student's University account and will be applied to any unpaid charges. If this creates a credit on the student's account (the current charges are less than the loan amount requested), the student may request a refund for the excess funds. To request a refund, mark the appropriate box on the application.

Applications are available on the second floor of Calvin Hall when the building is open (7:00 a.m. until 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday).

Terms of the Loan

- No co-signer is required
- No interest will accrue if the loan is repaid on time
- The loan funds will be applied directly to the student's University account as a payment and will be applied to any unpaid charges
- A loan in default will draw ten percent annual interest on the unpaid principal and interest until the loan is paid in full

Repayment and Due Dates

Students will be billed for the loan repayment by Educational Computer Systems, Inc. (ECSI) through the University of Iowa Student Loan Administration Office. ECSI bills are issued the first day of the month and are usually due on the 22nd of the month; however, check the bill to verify the due date.

- A loan taken out during the 2013 Fall semester will be billed on a November 2013 ECSI bill. If the loan is taken out after October 15, the loan will be billed on a December 2013 ECSI bill. If the loan is taken out after December 1, the loan will be billed on a January 2014 ECSI bill.
- A loan taken out during the 2013 Winter session will be billed on a February 2014 ECSI bill. If the loan is taken out after January 15, the loan will be billed on a March 2014 ECSI bill.
- A loan taken out during the 2014 Spring semester will be billed on an April 2014 ECSI bill. If the loan is taken out after March 15, the loan will be billed on a May 2014 ECSI bill. If the loan is taken out after April 15, the loan will be billed on a June 2014 ECSI bill.
- A loan taken out during the 2014 Summer sessions will be billed on an August 2014 ECSI bill. If the loan is taken out after July 15, the loan will be billed on a September 2014 ECSI bill.

Possible Reasons for Loan Disapproval

- Application is incomplete or illegible
- Borrower is not registered for the current term
- Borrower has a previous hallway loan that is unpaid
- Borrower is in loan default or owes a refund to the University
- Borrower recently paid a past-due University bill with a personal check (borrower must wait five working days for the check to clear before applying for a hallway loan)
6.4 Awards and Scholarships - Departmental

Goertz/Nicholson Memorial Fellowship Award

This award is given in memory of Christoph Goertz, Ph.D. and Dwight Nicholson, Ph.D. The fellowship was instituted in November 1991 by the wives of Drs. Goertz and Nicholson, Ulrike Goertz and Jane Nicholson, Ph.D., after the death of their husbands on November 1, 1991.

The award of up to $4,000 is presented each spring to a graduate student in the Department of Physics and Astronomy who demonstrates the promise of achieving excellence in the field, preferably space plasma theory.

A faculty committee reviews and determines the recipient of this award.

Nicholson Fellowship

The Nicholson Fellowship was established by two students of Dwight Nicholson, Mei Mei Shen and Guo-Zheng Sun, in memory of his commitment to helping new graduate students. It is supported by these two individuals and other students and friends of Dwight Nicholson. The scholarship consists of a cash award to help a new graduate student in physics or astronomy pay the miscellaneous expenses of starting his or her graduate career at Iowa. The scholarship will be awarded by the departmental committee responsible for graduate student recruitment. The choice of the individual to receive the award will be based on financial need and promise of academic achievement.

Swift Scholarship

This scholarship is for an entering graduate student in the Department of Physics and Astronomy. All entering graduate students are eligible for the award, which is given at the discretion of the DEO. No application is required, qualified students are automatically considered.

John and Stacey Wahl Scholarship

John Wahl was a 1944 and 1952 graduate of The University of Iowa's Department of Physics and Astronomy. During the late 1940s, between his graduate degrees, he worked for the Atomic Energy Commission at Los Alamos and later returned to The University of Iowa and received his Ph.D. in Nuclear Physics. During the course of his education, both he and Mrs. Wahl maintained an active family and were constantly under financial constraints. Hence their decision to establish a scholarship fund in 1984 to benefit only those students who are in similar circumstances – with both academic and personal responsibilities.

Mr. Wahl was employed by the Schlumberger company for 25 years before his death in 1982. He is survived by his wife, Mrs. Mary E. Wahl (Stacey). She received a B.A. degree from The University of Iowa in 1938, taught high school mathematics in Iowa City during the 1940s and is a retired Assistant Professor of Mathematics at Western Connecticut College in Danbury.

This scholarship is designed to fund two $2,000 awards each fall to physics or astronomy students, with a preference for graduate students who are married and have children.

The departmental faculty determines and approves who receive these awards.
6.5 Awards and Scholarships - University

Outstanding Teaching Assistant Award

The University of Iowa Council on Teaching administers and awards approximately 25 awards of $1,000 each academic year to teaching assistants who have demonstrated outstanding ability as teachers at The University of Iowa.

Teaching assistants from all academic units may be nominated for these awards. Nominees must certify that they have had formal student contact during one of the academic semesters. A teaching assistant who won an award last year may not be nominated this year.

Nominations may be initiated by students, faculty, colleagues, departmental executive officers (DEOs), or deans. Self-nominations are not allowed. The nominations must follow the guidelines specified in the nomination packet. All materials must be submitted to the nominee's department for the DEO's signature. The DEO will forward nominations to the Council on Teaching in care of the Office of the Provost.

Nomination packets are available in January from departmental offices (see Debbie Foreman, 202 VAN) and from the Council on Teaching, 111 Jessup Hall. Nominations are generally due to the departmental DEO in February.

Please reference the following web site for complete information regarding this award:
http://www.uiowa.edu/~cot/TA%20Award/otamenu.htm
6.6 Awards and Scholarships – NSF, DOE and NASA

The National Science Foundation, the Department of Energy and NASA have programs to support graduate students. Please see their web sites for further details:

http://www.nsfgrfp.org/ NSF graduate research fellowships

http://www.scied.science.doe.gov/SCGF.html Office of Science fellowship program

http://www.nasa.gov/ NASA fellowships