

QSB POLICY ON TEACHING AND RESEARCH ASSISTANTSHIPS AND STIPENDS

21 January 2009

This is an amendment to QSB Policies and Procedures, Section VII.

1. All QSB students are required to TA at least one semester to fulfill requirements for a Ph.D. TA experience at other institutions is not fungible. TA stipends are determined by the School in which the student is hired (e.g. Natural Sciences), whereas GSR stipends are determined by the Graduate Group (see #4, below). The TA stipend for FY 07-08 was approximately \$8,200 per semester. Students who have advanced to Ph.D. candidacy are appointed as Teaching Fellows, the stipend for which is slightly higher. TAs and TFs do not accrue paid vacation time.
2. Newly admitted students will normally be supported as graduate TAs during their first two semesters in residence. After that, students will be supported as either TAs or GSRs depending on availability of TA-ships and the research advisor's funding situation.
3. New students who cannot be appointed as TAs because of limited English proficiency or lack of available TA positions will be appointed as GSRs for their first one or two semesters by mutual agreement of the student and the research advisor, subject to availability of funding.
4. Graduate students serving as GSRs are guaranteed \$2,000/month during the time they are appointed as GSRs. GSRs do not accrue paid vacation time.
5. The TA and GSR appointment is independent of the time a graduate student spends working on his/her thesis project. A GSR appointment dictates the amount of time a graduate student is paid to work on a specific project (the subject matter of which is determined by the goals of the project funded by a university or non-university entity). The project that is providing the GSR stipend may or may not be related to his/her thesis project. In all situations, the graduate student is required to make adequate scholarly progress on his/her thesis project (see QSB Policies and Procedures, Section VI).
6. The QSB Graduate Group is very demanding in the level of scholarship and research, so additional obligations (compensated or not) may slow academic progress below what is considered satisfactory by this graduate program. Therefore, before accepting obligations in addition to their graduate thesis research, TA, or GSR appointment, graduate students are strongly urged to consult with their research advisor and thesis advisory committee; if these consultations do not reach a satisfactory conclusion, the QSB graduate group chair may be consulted.
7. These policies will be revisited and revised as necessary on an annual basis by the QSB Executive Committee.
8. Exceptions to these policies should be made with the recommendation of the student's research advisor, the graduate group chair, and the graduate dean.