



The University of Vermont

Richard A. Galbraith, MD, PhD
Vice President for Research

April 2, 2015

We are writing to all University faculty and staff to inform you of an important change to the way tuition scholarship is paid for extramurally-supported graduate assistants (a/k/a Graduate Research Assistants). This change will bring us into line with current practices at the majority of research universities. The information below applies only to predoctoral graduate assistants compensated from a sponsored grant or project for the effort specific to that project. Predoctoral fellows or trainees supported on training grants or fellowships are not included.

Fringe Rates for Health Insurance

Beginning in Fall 2011, the University engaged in multiple discussions regarding the payment of tuition scholarship and health benefits for extramurally supported graduate assistants. Instituting a fringe rate to support health insurance and tuition costs was the unanimous recommendation of the ad hoc Tuition on Grants Committee and the Graduate Executive Committee in Spring of 2012. That recommendation was endorsed by the Senate Research Scholarship and Graduate Education Committee that year. As noted in a letter to all University Principal Investigators from Interim Vice President for Research John Evans in April 2014 a fringe benefit rate on graduate assistant salaries for health insurance benefits was instituted July 1, 2014.

Tuition Scholarship

The issue of whether to assess extramural awards for some of the tuition scholarship for graduate assistants supported on the awards was considered further by another ad hoc committee of graduate faculty and students in Fall 2014. That Committee unanimously recommended that all new research applications in which it is permissible include funds to support 10 credits of tuition at the in-state rate for full time graduate assistants supported on the award. The remainder of the tuition scholarship not supported by the extramural source would be paid by UVM. The Graduate Executive Committee unanimously supported that recommendation, which was also endorsed by the Research, Scholarship and Creative Arts Committee of the Faculty Senate. On February 19, 2015, the Council of Deans unanimously supported this recommendation. Following approval by the Provost, this requirement is now in place.

The Sponsored Project Administration (SPA) team will work with applicants to ensure a smooth transition. In conjunction with the Vice President for Research and the Dean of the Graduate College, SPA has posted the new budget requirement and developed a series of FAQs to address common questions. See Graduate Student Support in the SPA website A to Z topics list. Please contact our offices for further questions.

Sincerely,


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