Graduate Assistantships

Graduate teaching, research, and service assistantships are available to qualified students in most graduate programs. These assistantships provide tuition remission, health insurance, and a stipend that is adequate to cover basic living expenses.

Applicants who are interested in being considered for assistantships, should contact to the chair or graduate advisor of the department to which they are applying for admission, stating their desire to be appointed as a graduate assistant. The award of an assistantship is competitive; students who hope to be considered should present credentials that are well above the minimum required for admission.

The purpose of a graduate assistantship is to provide experience and training that augment a student’s academic program. The department chair or graduate advisor will attempt to place a student in an assistantship believed to best serve the career training objective of the student. Although a student is free to make known a preference for a particular placement, the final decision is the prerogative of the department in which the student is enrolled.

The distribution of assistantships across departments may differ from year to year. Moreover, some departmental policies require that a student complete graduate credit hours in the program before being eligible for an assistantship.

Diversity Assistantships/Scholarships

The Graduate School is committed to providing financial support for the recruitment and retention of qualified, under-represented students. An award candidate must be admitted to the degree program (MS or PhD) and be nominated by the Department Chair. These assistantships include a monthly stipend, tuition remission and health insurance.

Resigning an Offer of Financial Support

As a member of the Council of Graduate Schools in the United States, the University of Louisville subscribes to the Resolution Regarding Scholars, Fellows, Trainees, and Graduate Assistants (http://cgsnet.org/april-15-resolution):

Acceptance of an offer of financial support (such as a graduate scholarship, fellowship, trainee-ship, or assistantship) for the next academic year by a prospective or enrolled graduate student completes an agreement that both student and the Graduate School expect to honor.

In that context, the conditions affecting such offers and their acceptance must be defined carefully and understood by all parties.

Students are under no obligation to respond to offers of financial support prior to April 15; earlier deadlines for acceptance of such offers violate the intent of this Resolution. In those instances in which a student accepts an offer before April 15, and subsequently desires to withdraw that acceptance, the student may submit in writing a resignation of the appointment at any time through April 15. However, an acceptance given or left in force after April 15 commits the student not to accept another appointment without first obtaining a written release from any previously accepted offer. It is further agreed by the institutions and organizations subscribing to the above Resolution that a copy of the Resolution or a link to the URL should accompany every scholarship, fellowship, traineeship, and assistantship offer.

University Fellowships

A limited number of University fellowships may be awarded to outstanding students in the doctoral programs. These carry a generous stipend, health insurance, and full tuition remission. Nominations are made each spring to the Dean of the Graduate School by the chairs of departments granting the doctorates. Students do not directly apply to the Graduate School for these awards. Students who wish to be considered for fellowships should abide by the graduate program’s deadline for submitting application materials.