



THE UNIVERSITY OF ARIZONA

James C. Wyant
College of Optical Sciences



2021-2022 Graduate Orientation Student Funding



Overview

- Update on funding status
- 1st year Funding Expectations
- Funding Resources:
 - Graduate Assistantships
 - Scholarships and Fellowships
 - Federal Financial Aid



Funding Update

- Ph.D. FoTO Recipients
 - FoTO scholarships, tuition award, and insurance posted
 - Disbursement holds
 - Spring 2022 wage position (\$4,344)
- Research Assistants
 - Positions processing
 - GA Placeholder added to student accounts



Direct Deposit

- **UAccess Student “Web Refund”**
 - For aid received as a student (FoTO, scholarships or student loans,)
- **UAccess Employee Paycheck Direct Deposit**
 - For compensation issued through employment, including GA’s
- **Paper checks mailed to mailing address on file**
 - Can update in UAccess





1st Year PhD Expectations

- Coursework
- Networking across OSC
- Finding a Research Lab





Graduate Assistantships (GA)

Research Assistant/Associate (RA)

- Requirements:
 - Hired by faculty member – per semester or academic year
 - Work: research in lab
 - Minimum 6 units required (includes research units – i.e. 599 Ind. Study, 909 MS Report, 910 Thesis or 920 Dissertation)
 - Minimum 3.0 GPA# Hours
- Tips:
 - Do your research and be proactive about contacting professors
 - Monitor email announcements advertising open RA positions
 - Consider all professors you can work with, 100+, including those in other departments
 - Realize that you are an employee hired under a contract for a specific period
 - *Communicate* with your superior, including gaining approval in advance for time off



Graduate Assistantships (GA)

Teaching Assistant/Associate (TA)

- Requirements:
 - Sign up to be considered mid-way through fall and spring. Email call will be sent out.
 - Work: offering teaching support (office hours, grading, lab sessions, discussions)
 - Minimum 6 units required (includes research units – i.e. 599 Ind. Study, 909 MS Report, 910 Thesis, 920 Dissertation)
 - Minimum 3.0 GPA# Hours
- Tips:
 - Be sure to monitor email for sign up announcements
 - Academic performance critical factor of TA assignment process
 - Consider contacting other departments to be considered for their TA positions
 - Positive TA evaluations required for possible re-appointment



GA Benefits

GA Title	.25 FTE Position					0.50 FTE Position				
	Hours Worked Per Week	Hourly Pay Rate	Semester Salary	Base Tuition Coverage	Health Insurance	Hours Worked Per Week	Hourly Pay Rate	Semester Salary	Base Tuition Coverage	Health Insurance
Graduate Assistant	10	\$22.157	\$4,431.65	50%	100%	20	\$22.157	\$8,863.29	100%	100%
Graduate Associate	10	\$24.396	\$4,879.17	50%	100%	20	\$24.396	\$9,758.34	100%	100%

GA Benefits Summary: <https://www.optics.arizona.edu/academics/funding/graduate-student-appointments>

Mandatory Fees

- Students are always responsible for mandatory fees
- Current: \$676.87 per semester
- UA Tuition and Fee Calculator: <https://bursar.arizona.edu/tuition>

Summer Compensation

- Summer funding is not guaranteed and is a separate hiring process
- Email to be sent out in April for summer 2022 hiring
- Specific hours set by hiring faculty advisor (can work up to full time!)
- Earn up to \$10,280





Scholarships and Fellowships

- OSC Internal Scholarships: <http://www.optics.arizona.edu/academics/funding/internal-scholarships>
- External Scholarships: <http://www.optics.arizona.edu/academics/funding/external-scholarships>
- Finding Scholarships
 - OSC Website: <http://www.optics.arizona.edu/academics/funding>
 - Grad Funding Newsletter
 - Scholarship Universe: www.scholarshipuniverse.arizona.edu
 - Faculty
 - Graduate College Website: <http://www.optics.arizona.edu/academics/funding>





Federal Financial Aid

- **FAFSA Application:** www.fafsa.gov
- **Type of Aid:**
 - Federal Unsubsidized Loan (up to \$20,500 per year)
- **Eligibility:**
 - Graduate student enrolled in at least 5 units
 - U.S. citizen or permanent resident





International Students

- You are responsible for making sure you are eligible to work
- Bring me updated copies of any changes to your status
 - I-20, visa documents





Questions

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