

## **University Fellowship Awards**

The University Fellowship is the most prestigious award for graduate students at the University of Louisville, and it is thus given to those who show great promise. Conditions for a University Fellowship require a student to be a full-time graduate student in residence at the University of Louisville and are precluded\* from other work for compensation while supported by the Fellowship. In addition, University Fellows are not expected to provide services beyond those appropriate to the completion their degree requirements.

Fellowship support typically is provided for 2 years, with the expectation that university-funded graduate assistantships be used to support additional years of study.

## **Graduate Assistantships**

Individuals supported by graduate assistantships are, first and foremost, students. Graduate assistants devote effort to a combined program of formal study and assigned duties of teaching, research or administrative service that is designed to enhance their university education. The scholarship awarded to graduate assistants is in recognition of these services and in support of their graduate studies as full-time students, with the expectation that any service assignments be consistent with the student's academic pursuits.

The University of Louisville offers three types of graduate assistantships: research (GRA), teaching (GTA), and service (GSA).

Conditions of a GRA, GTA, or GSA award may require work on defined services to a department or unit. The appointing academic program, college, or area of responsibility determines service requirements of students who hold assistantships. If awarded an assistantship outside their program, graduate assistants' duties are governed by the academic program, college, or the area of responsibility that made the award. In all cases, a student covered by an Assistantship is limited to 20-hours per week on assigned duties. In addition, the assigned service should make a substantive contribution to the student's academic and professional development. The 20-hour work limit does not apply to a GRA's work that is also integral their dissertation research. Typically, in these cases, GRAs are supported by faculty research grants, training grants or other extramural fellowship support. A GRA may be supported from the federal research funds only if it can be documented that the activities of the GRA constitute necessary work towards the objectives of the sponsored research project which provides the funding.

\*Exceptions for additional work beyond the fellowship award or 20 hours per week limit for the GTA or GRA will be considered for only unusual cases that provide additional professional development and only for short-term projects. The additional workload waiver is limited to 9 hours per week. These cases must be approved by the Chair of the student's department with final written consent given by the Dean of the Graduate School.

## **Stipend Levels**

Individual programs/units, in consultation with the Dean of the Graduate School, set stipend levels to be competitive for their respective disciplines. The Graduate School is the authoritative unit for reviewing and approving all university stipend levels. The Graduate School prohibits differential stipend levels for students within the same program.