

Whether you are a current graduate student seeking sources of additional funding, or a prospective student just considering an advanced degree, the Graduate School wants to help.

Check out the following types of funding for financing your graduate education: grants, graduate student appointments, and loans.

GRANTS

Grants are free money for which you are not required to work or repay the funds. Fellowships are the most common type of grant, but others include scholarships, travel grants, and monetary awards. Three primary sources of funding at Purdue include the University, federal agencies, and other external programs.

University grants comprise fellowships, scholarships, and awards for which the Graduate School or academic unit selects the recipients. Most awards are based on academic merit, a research proposal, and in some cases, financial need. A listing of grants and awards for prospective and current graduate students is available in the Graduate School Funding Database at www.purdue.edu/GradSchool/funding.

Federal fellowships are grants for which a federal agency selects and funds the recipients. Typically, you will apply to a specific program, such as the National Science Foundation's (NSF) Graduate Research Fellowship. Some fellowships are awarded to faculty, who select student recipients based on field of study and academic merit.

Foundations, national academies, corporations, and charitable agencies also provide funding. These external programs hold national competitions or invite university nominations or proposals. The Purdue Graduate School hosts workshops to assist students in preparing applications. More information about these workshops, including a calendar of events, is available on the Graduate School's Web site.

GRADUATE STUDENT APPOINTMENTS

Student appointments are the most common method of funding graduate study. Over 60 percent of Purdue graduate students are on student appointments. You may secure positions as teaching, research, or administrative/professional assistants to develop and enhance your skills.

LOANS AND EMPLOYMENT

Student loan information is available through the Division of Financial Aid (DFA) and the U.S. Department of Education. You can also apply to serve as a residence hall counselor, or seek other employment to help finance your graduate education. Information regarding residence hall positions may be obtained from University Residences or the student housing office on your campus of interest. General student employment information is available on the DFA Web site: <http://www.purdue.edu/DFA/>.

When to Start

Regardless of the financing method, you should begin searching for funding approximately one year before you need it. Fellowship deadlines come early in the fall when faculty begin to assess their need for assistantships. If you are considering federal student loans, there may be two deadlines, one for the government and one for the institution you choose to attend. As a result, start your research early.

Where to Look

The Purdue University Graduate School maintains a searchable database of funding opportunities for prospective and current graduate students. These include fellowships, assistantships, and travel grants offered by the University as well as external sources. Visit www.purdue.edu/GradSchool/funding to search for funding opportunities and find helpful links to other funding Web sites.

How to Evaluate Your Offer

The value of a funding offer will vary by discipline and may be partially based on the expected number of work hours, in the case of graduate student appointments. When evaluating an offer, you should consider the stipend, tuition and fee coverage, and medical insurance. Don't forget to consult a cost-of-living index to estimate how well the stipend will cover your living expenses.

For more information, including links to the resources mentioned in this publication, visit The Graduate School's Web site at: www.purdue.edu/GradSchool/funding or email: fellowships@purdue.edu.

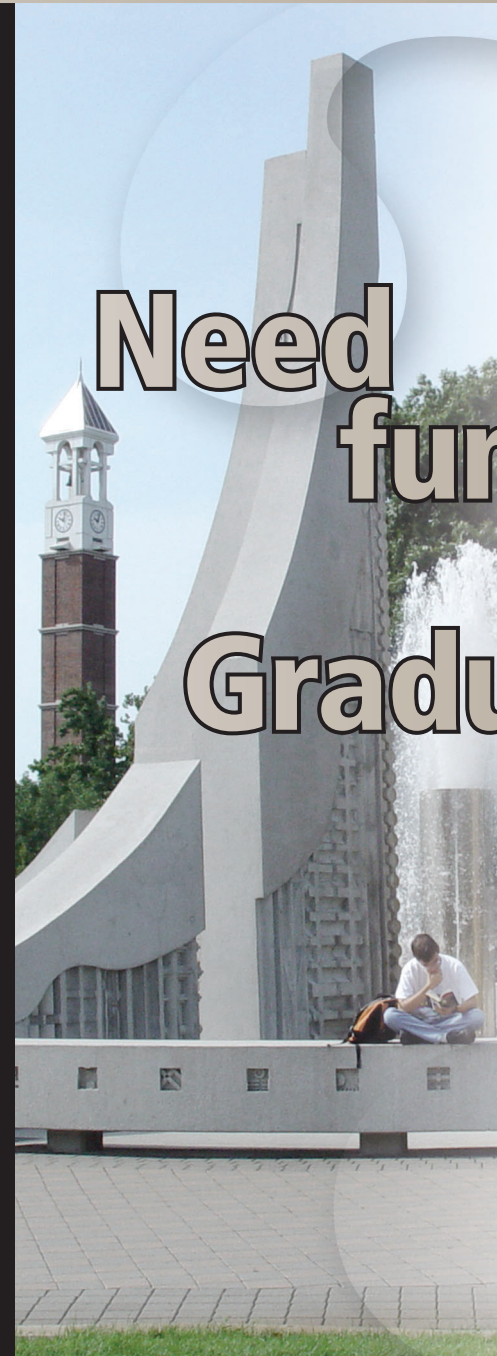
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