

## Top 10 Frequently Asked Questions about: *Financial Aid*

### 1. Where can I find information about fellowships and other funding?

The Graduate Fellowships Office (GFO) is a resource center for graduate students seeking information on fellowships funded by the University and outside sources. The GFO houses a directory of fellowships and grants available for graduate students. Included are the *Annual Register of Grant Support*, a reference source of financial and grant support programs and the *Annual Register* which lists grant support programs offered by agencies, foundations, corporations, and associations. In addition, GFO distributes an annual calendar of upcoming graduate fellowship competitions. GFO also offers computer terminals and a list of Web sites for online databases to enable students to research funding opportunities via the Web, which continues to be the most up-to-date resource for fellowship information. More information of GFO can be found at: [http://www.grad.berkeley.edu/financial/fellowships\\_office.shtml](http://www.grad.berkeley.edu/financial/fellowships_office.shtml)

### 2. I am an international graduate student. What fellowships am I eligible for?

In addition to the resources mentioned above, international graduate students may review *Funding for United States Study: A Guide for International Students and Professionals*. It is a comprehensive guide that identifies fellowships and grants for foreign nationals in pursuit of a U.S. education at all levels. As an international student, you should pay particular attention to eligibility requirements. Contact the program assistant for your area of concentration if you have additional questions. Visit: <http://www.grad.berkeley.edu/international/index.shtml>

### 3. My financial aid award is less than my student budget. What should I do?

First, remember that the standard student budget is an estimate of expenses for the average graduate student. Your actual expenses may be higher or lower. If you need additional income, you may contact the Financial Aid Office to inquire about a Budget Appeal, Work-Study eligibility, or you may work at a non-Work-Study job. Non-Work-Study earnings are not counted as a resource for the current year or deducted from aid eligibility. Finally, there are two graduate alternative loans: the Graduate PLUS Loan and private loans. Information on Graduate Alternative Loans: [http://students.berkeley.edu/finaid/graduates/types\\_loans.htm](http://students.berkeley.edu/finaid/graduates/types_loans.htm)

### 4. Am I eligible for a partial or full fee remission?

Graduate Student Instructors (GSI's), Graduate Student Researchers (GSR's), Readers, and Tutors are eligible for a partial or full fee remission (between 25% and 100%). The fee remission can include University Registration Fee, Educational Fee, Health Insurance Fee, Berkeley Campus Fee, Class Pass (AC Transit) Fee, and Nonresident Tuition Fee.

Information on fee remissions: [http://www.grad.berkeley.edu/policies/pdf/fee\\_remission\\_bulletin.pdf](http://www.grad.berkeley.edu/policies/pdf/fee_remission_bulletin.pdf)

### 5. How can I find a GSI or GSR position?

GSI and GSR appointments are offered by departments and faculty throughout Berkeley and usually require 10 hours of work per week. Available positions are not widely publicized so graduate students must individually contact departments and faculty to inquire about positions that may interest them. Students usually find relevant information on departmental websites (course offerings or faculty research projects) and then contact departments by phone or e-mail. Students have found positions within the School of Public Health or in areas where they hold some expertise (eg. work experience or undergraduate degrees.)

Information on GSI and GSR appointments: <http://www.grad.berkeley.edu/policies/pdf/apptknow.pdf>

### 6. Will my aid be reduced if I have a GSI/GSR appointment or a Reader or Tutor position?

The amount of your earnings will not affect your current eligibility for aid, however the fee remission and GSHIP remission which you receive will be treated as a resource and deducted from your financial aid eligibility. Be sure to report any academic appointments to the Financial Aid Office as soon as you know about them.

### 7. How do I access information about my financial aid awards?

Log on to Bearfacts (<http://bearfacts.berkeley.edu>) with your CalNet ID and passphrase to view your financial aid award letter and accept or decline loans. You can also review grades, registration information, and your class schedule on Bearfacts!

### 8. How do I contact the Graduate Financial Aid Office?

The Graduate Financial Aid Office is accessible in a number of ways and e-mail is many times the quickest way to resolve a question. They can be contacted at [fao\\_grad@berkeley.edu](mailto:fao_grad@berkeley.edu) (be sure to include your Student ID number.) The Graduate Financial Aid Office is located at 201 Sproul Hall, #1960. The following are their hours of operation during the academic year:

*Quick questions, drop off forms:* 10am - 12pm & 1pm - 3pm Mon–Thur (Reception Desk is closed on Fridays)

*Drop-In Counseling:* 10am - 12pm Mon, Wed & 1pm - 3pm Thur

*Telephone inquiries:* (510) 642-0485 10am - 11:30am & 1pm - 3:30pm Mon - Fri

### 9. Are there unit or grade requirements to maintain eligibility to fellowships or loans?

The school requires that *all* students be registered for a minimum of 12 units per semester and maintain a minimum Grade Point Average of 3.0.

### 10. I haven't filed a FAFSA yet, am I too late?

You may still apply for financial aid (loans) by completing the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). You can complete the FAFSA on line at [www.fafsa.ed.gov](http://www.fafsa.ed.gov).