

Number: PPD - 0607
Subject: Use of Tuition Waivers and Stipend Rates for Fellowship Proposals

This policy establishes stipend rates and usage of tuition waivers for graduate students who are seeking external fellowships from sponsoring agencies (state, federal, or private organizations).

- When a doctoral student, or Master's student with an Academic Status and Degrees Committee approved "intent to bypass" form, who was previously awarded a Provost's Distinguished Fellowship, i.e. a full tuition waiver, applies for an external fellowship, the student may retain the waiver for the duration awarded by the Associate Dean of Academic Studies. The student will not be required to seek tuition funding for the period covered by the waiver. The waiver, which is the equivalent of in-state tuition and fees for the semesters granted, including summer sessions, may be used as match for the fellowship proposal.

Having a provost tuition waiver may afford flexibility in the proposal budget to an external agency or other funding organization. In the following situations, graduate students applying for external fellowships may propose/request stipend rates that exceed the School of Marine Science (SMS) base stipend rates:

- For students applying for fellowship awards whose terms and conditions dictate a stipend rate higher than the SMS base stipend rates, the rate shall be that set by the sponsor.
- For doctoral students, or Master's students with an Academic Status and Degrees Committee approved "intent to bypass" form, the allowable stipend for the fellowship proposal may exceed the SMS base stipend rate but will be capped at the stipend rate for the National Science Foundation (NSF) Graduate Research Fellowship at the time the proposal is submitted.
- For Master's students without an approved "intent to bypass" form, the allowable stipend for the fellowship proposal may exceed the SMS base stipend rate (at the time the proposal is submitted) by up to \$5,000 annually.

For this policy, recognized fellowships include, but are not limited to:

- National Sea Grant/NOAA Fisheries Graduate Fellowship program – Population and Ecosystem Dynamics; Marine Resource Economics
- Virginia Sea Grant Graduate Fellowship
- Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) STAR Fellowship (currently inactive) – the stipend

rate is set by EPA

- NSF Graduate Research Fellowship – the stipend rate is set by the NSF
- Other fellowships approved by the Associate Dean of Academic Studies

Date: Approved by Academic Council and Associate Dean of Academic Studies on March 15, 2017

Rev.: March 12, 2021

Rev.: Nov. 10, 2021