

Financial Support

6.1 RAs and TAs

From [http:// www.physics.uiowa.edu/graduate/financial_aid.html](http://www.physics.uiowa.edu/graduate/financial_aid.html)

We make every effort to pay our graduate students an attractive stipend. Most students have what is called a 50% appointment, with the following stipends:

Stipends for 9-month Academic Year, 2009-2010

TA \$18,850 (\$17,850 to foreign nationals until they pass the speak-lect test earning a B or above)

RA \$18,850

Stipends for summer 2009

TA or RA \$4,188 (typical for 2-month appointment)

For updated stipend information, contact us or visit our website.

Students with at least a 25% appointment:

- Receive health insurance benefits in the form of the Graduate Student Health Insurance Allowance.
- Pay the resident tuition rate (www.registrar.uiowa.edu), which varies according to the number of semester hours. In 2009-2010, it is \$7,863 for 9 hours.

Additional tuition support

The Department may offer tuition support to highly qualified students with good GRE subject scores and strong grade point averages. All students who apply for admission are automatically considered for this tuition support.

Students holding a 25% or greater teaching or research assistantship appointment will be assured a tuition scholarship. The tuition scholarship for academic year 2009-2010 is \$5,230. The tuition scholarships will be applicable only for the academic year and does not include scholarships for summer semester enrollment. These rates for the tuition scholarship are based on a 9 s.h. or greater registration and will be pro-rated as related to each student's registration. The tuition scholarship is not affected by the level of appointment above 25%.



Students in Commons Room

The Graduate College also offers tuition scholarships. See the [graduate assistant tuition scholarship information page](#) for more details.

About TA positions

- Most TAs have a half-time (50%) appointment.
- The most common assignment is for TAs to teach three sections of a physics laboratory, each with three hours of contact with students, or four sections of an astronomy lab, each with two hours. These TAs work under the supervision of the laboratory coordinator and the professor in charge of the course.
- Other TAs serve as tutors, proctors, or graders.
- A half-time appointment requires up to 20 hours per week of service to the department. At the same time you can take a full load of courses, up to 12 semester hours.

Some TAs also receive support as an RA. It is common for a student to be supported as a half-time TA during the academic year and as an RA for up to three months during the summer. Some students are supported during the academic year partly as a TA and partly as an RA. For example a student supported with a one-quarter-time TA position and a one-quarter RA position would serve up to 10 hours per week as a TA and serve as an RA in the remaining time.



TAs in instructional labs

6.2 Travel Funds for graduate Students

Departmental Funds

The Department of Physics and Astronomy recently received a limited amount of funds from one of our alumni to provide graduate student program support. One of the items specified that these funds may be used for is graduate student travel.

Requests for funding should go to Aaron Votroubek. You will need to explain the rationale for this support, as well as provide a travel budget. This should be submitted one month in advance of the trip.

Other Sources

A graduate student can apply to the Graduate Student Senate for travel funds - forms can be gotten from the Graduate College or downloaded from the web - <http://www.uiowa.edu/~gss/travel/index.html>

You may also want to try contacting Student Government at 335-3860; they have had some travel funds in the past.



6.3 Emergency Loans

Heather Mineart in Room 204 is responsible for the distribution of the emergency loan fund.

The Department is able to provide short-term financial aid to departmental graduate students through the G.W. Stewart Emergency Loan Fund. Distributions are based on the critical financial needs of a student. An interest free payback plan is devised at the time the money is borrowed.

{EXAMPLE}

G.W. Stewart Emergency Loan

Consumer Credit Transaction Note and Disclosure Statement
MFK: 530/11/1280/00000/71955400/0000/000/00000/00/9430

PURPOSE:

A loan fund to provide short-term emergency student financial aid to students in the Department of Physics and Astronomy.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

Established by Stacey Wahl of Ridgefield, Connecticut, in February 1990. This emergency loan fund will provide short-term financial aid to students with the Department of Physics and Astronomy. Named in memory of G.W. Stewart who was head of the Department in the 1920-s and '30's when Mrs. Wahl's husband was a student in the program.

I, _____, am requesting an interest free loan from the G.W. Stewart Emergency Loan Fund in the amount of \$ _____.

I hereby agree to repay this loan in the following manner:

Repay in full as of _____.

Repay in installments of no less than _____ per _____ beginning _____.

The Debtor further understands and agrees, and it is understood between the parties that:

- The Department may, at its option, declare the Debtor's loan to be in default if a payment is not made when due under the repayment schedule established. Immediate payment of the entire unpaid balance of the defaulted loan may be demanded by the Department. Furthermore, the Department may disclose the default, along with other relevant information, to credit bureau organizations.
- Debtor shall immediately inform the Department of any change in address after he or she ceases to be a full-time student at The University of Iowa.

NOTICE TO CONSUMER – DO NOT SIGN THIS PAPER BEFORE YOU READ IT. YOU ARE ENTITLED TO A COPY OF THIS PAPER.

I hereby acknowledge receipt of a copy of these disclosures and the note.

Recipient Signature

Social Security Number

Address

Date

Authorizing Staff Signature

Date

Payment should be made directly to the Cashiers Office (SCH)

6.4 Awards and Scholarships - Departmental

Goertz/Nicholson Memorial Fellowship Award

This award is given in memory of Christoph Goertz, Ph.D. and Dwight Nicholson, Ph.D. The fellowship was instituted in November 1991 by the wives of Drs. Goertz and Nicholson, Ulrike Goertz and Jane Nicholson, Ph.D., after the death of their husbands on November 1, 1991.

The award of up to \$4,000 is presented each spring to a graduate student in the Department of Physics and Astronomy who demonstrates the promise of achieving excellence in the field, preferably space plasma theory.

A faculty committee reviews and determines the recipient of this award.

Nicholson Fellowship

The Nicholson Fellowship was established by two students of Dwight Nicholson, Mei Mei Shen and Guo-Zheng Sun, in memory of his commitment to helping new graduate students. It is supported by these two individuals and other students and friends of Dwight Nicholson. The scholarship consists of a cash award to help a new graduate student in physics or astronomy pay the miscellaneous expenses of starting his or her graduate career at Iowa. The scholarship will be awarded by the departmental committee responsible for graduate student recruitment. The choice of the individual to receive the award will be based on financial need and promise of academic achievement.

Swift Scholarship

This scholarship is for an entering graduate student in the Department of Physics and Astronomy. All entering graduate students are eligible for the award, which is given at the discretion of the DEO. No application is required, qualified students are automatically considered.

John and Stacey Wahl Scholarship

John Wahl was a 1944 and 1952 graduate of The University of Iowa's Department of Physics and Astronomy. During the late 1940s, between his graduate degrees, he worked for the Atomic Energy Commission at Los Alamos and later returned to The University of Iowa and received his Ph.D. in Nuclear Physics. During the course of his education, both he and Mrs. Wahl maintained an active family and were constantly under financial constraints. Hence their decision to establish a scholarship fund in 1984 to benefit only those students who are in similar circumstances – with both academic and personal responsibilities.

Mr. Wahl was employed by the Schlumberger company for 25 years before his death in 1982. He is survived by his wife, Mrs. Mary E. Wahl (Stacey). She received a B.A. degree from The University of Iowa in 1938, taught high school mathematics in Iowa City during the 1940s and is a retired Assistant Professor of Mathematics at Western Connecticut College in Danbury.

This scholarship is designed to fund two \$2,000 awards each fall to physics or astronomy students, with a preference for graduate students who are married and have children.

The departmental faculty determines and approves who receive these awards.

6.5 Awards and Scholarships - University

Outstanding Teaching Assistant Award

The University of Iowa Council on Teaching administers and awards approximately 25 awards of \$1,000 each academic year to teaching assistants who have demonstrated outstanding ability as teachers at The University of Iowa.

Teaching assistants from all academic units may be nominated for these awards. Nominees must certify that they have had formal student contact during one of the academic semesters. A teaching assistant who won an award last year may not be nominated this year.

Nominations may be initiated by students, faculty, colleagues, departmental executive officers (DEOs), or deans. Self-nominations are not allowed. The nominations must follow the guidelines specified in the nomination packet. All materials must be submitted to the nominee's department for the DEO's signature. The DEO will forward nominations to the Council on Teaching in care of the Office of the Provost.

Nomination packets are available in January from departmental offices (see Debbie Foreman, 202 VAN) and from the Council on Teaching, 111 Jessup Hall. Nominations are generally due to the departmental DEO in February.

Please reference the following web site for complete information regarding this award:
<http://www.uiowa.edu/~cot/TA%20Award/otamenu.htm>

6.6 Awards and Scholarships – NSF, DOE and NASA

The National Science Foundation, the Department of Energy and NASA have programs to support graduate students. Please see their web sites for further details:

<http://www.nsfgrfp.org/> NSF graduate research fellowships

<http://www.scied.science.doe.gov/SCGF.html> Office of Science fellowship program

<http://www.nasa.gov/> NASA fellowships