

Guidelines for Bunton-Waller Assistantships
 2011-12

Overview

Bunton-Waller (BW) assistantships are provided with funding from the Vice Provost for Educational Equity; the program is managed by the Graduate School. These assistantships are intended for students who will enhance diversity on our campus. While many are given to students of color, they may also be offered to students whose scholarship enhances diversity.

Current funding provides for approximately 70 full-time equivalent BWs annually. A BW assistantship carries with it a stipend at grade 11 for one and two-year programs and grade 12 for four-year awards, as well as a tuition grant and health insurance for fall and spring semesters. Additionally, some colleges have elected to receive a portion of their BW student aid funds in the form of summer scholarships so they may offer full-year funding packages.

Graduate School allocations are distributed to colleges annually, typically in December, and are contingent upon receipt of each college's respective annual report (see below). Colleges determine their own internal awarding strategies and must manage their student funding offers absent the expectation that the Graduate School will make available supplemental allocations to offset over-commitments. Each college bears the risk of a higher than expected yield and must have in place a contingency plan to cover all financial offers committed to incoming and continuing students. It is important that each college notify the Office of Graduate Fellowships and Awards of their incoming and continuing students by May 1 each year. Following May 1, allocations are subject to redistribution.

An annual report is necessary to allow colleges and the Graduate School to better track the progress of our Bunton-Waller students. The report will be due October 30th each year and will allow us to monitor the advancement of our students and identify areas for program improvement.

Eligibility

Eligibility: Consideration shall be given to ****prospective**** graduate students who are U.S. citizens or permanent residents and who will contribute to the diversity of the graduate student body.

Award Types:

1. One-Year Awards (for one-year programs only)—One semester of assistantship from the Graduate School and one semester of support at an equal or higher level from the program/department. This award provides an assistantship at the half-time, grade 11 level.
2. Two-Year Awards—First year of support is provided by the Graduate School for the fall and spring semesters. If registration for the summer is required, tuition (up to 9 credits) can be paid through the Summer Tuition Assistance Program. Students must complete their program's Summer Tuition Assistance application form. The program/department must guarantee second

year support at an equal or higher level providing the student makes satisfactory academic progress. This award provides an assistantship at the half-time, grade 11 level.

3. Doctoral Student Awards—This program is designed to recruit prospective doctoral students by offering them a multiyear package. Note: If a student decides to pursue his/her doctorate after receiving funding through the BW program for a master's degree, he/she is not eligible for the doctoral student program. For doctoral student awards, the first year of enrollment and the first year post-comprehensive examination are supported by the Graduate School and include an assistantship for the fall and spring semesters. This award provides an assistantship at the half-time, grade 12 level. The program/department must guarantee intermediate years support (for at least two years) at an equal or higher level provided the student makes satisfactory academic progress. The post-comprehensive exam year of funding is intended to provide the student with time to focus on his/her dissertation research and will be provided when the student passes the comprehensive exams and is enrolled for subject 601. If registration for the summer is required, tuition (up to 9 credits) can be paid through the Summer Tuition Assistance Program. Students must complete the Summer Tuition Assistance application form.

All Bunton-Waller assistantships are to be processed by the department or college. Detailed instructions for posting the appointments are available in the *Information for Processing Bunton-Waller Assistantship Awards* handout. The Graduate School will enter summer monies into students' accounts for colleges that have elected to utilize a portion of their Bunton-Waller student aid funds as summer scholarships (\$2,500 per award). The funds are distributed to students after they complete the necessary steps to finalize summer registration in accordance with standard aid disbursement procedures. Students must enroll for the summer session to receive the summer grants. Students need to apply through their programs for the Summer Tuition Assistance Program to cover their summer tuition costs.