



Guidelines for Bunton-Waller Assistantships 2020-21

Overview

Bunton-Waller (BW) assistantships are intended for students who will enhance diversity on our campus. Funds are intended to recruit individuals from historically disadvantaged groups.

Bunton-Waller awards are for students enrolled in full-time study in the Graduate School when the award is disbursed. Bunton-Waller awards may be used for graduate students enrolled in joint degree programs, but must be used to support the student when they are enrolled full-time in their Graduate School program.

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.

For the 2020-21 cohort, the Bunton-Waller program has been re-modeled and restructured as outlined 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 a higher than anticipated rate of student acceptances. Each college bears that risk and must have in place a contingency plan to cover all financial offers committed to incoming and continuing students.

New 2020-21 Bunton-Waller Funding Model

Beginning with the 2020-21 Bunton-Waller graduate assistantship cohort, each awardee will be afforded a stipend at the half-time, grade 18 level (minimally) for up to five years for doctoral students, and at the half-time, grade 14 level (minimally) for up to two years for a master's student, as well as a tuition grant-in-aid and student health insurance premium subsidy for each fall and spring semester (i.e., 10-month appointments). Alternatively, Bunton-Waller graduate assistantships may be awarded for a 12-month period at no lower than a ½-time grade 16 level for doctoral students and a ½-time grade 12 level for master's students. This will enable colleges/schools to use Graduate School allocations in a manner that provides uniform stipend payments throughout each 12-month period. If registration for the summer is required, up to nine (9) eligible credits of tuition can be paid through the Summer Tuition Assistance Program (STAP). To apply, graduate students must complete a STAP application.

IMPORTANT NOTE – This guideline document refers to “colleges/schools” throughout; please note, with respect to any requirement for matching funds, it is at the discretion of the office of the administrator for graduate education in each college/school to determine how such a matching requirement will be met, which may include, but is not limited to, funding from any area/source within the administrative unit, in accordance with University financial policies.

Award Types

Doctoral Student Awards - This program is designed to recruit diverse prospective doctoral students by offering them five-year funding packages. For doctoral student awards, the first year of enrollment is supported by the Graduate School and includes a stipend, tuition, and student health insurance premium subsidy. The award provides an assistantship at (minimally) the ½-time, grade 18 stipend level for a fall/spring (10-month) appointment. Alternatively, Bunton-Waller graduate assistantships may be awarded for a 12-month period at no lower than a ½-time grade 16 stipend level for doctoral students, to enable colleges/schools to use Graduate School allocations in a manner that provides uniform stipend payments throughout each 12-month period. The college/school must guarantee support for the second year, including stipend, tuition, and student health insurance premium subsidy, with the stipend at an equal or higher level, provided the student makes satisfactory academic progress. The college/school must guarantee another three years of support at (minimally) the ½-time, grade 12 level, and the Graduate School will provide a top up scholarship to reach a total award equal to the difference between a fall/spring grade 18 stipend level (based on the stipend table for the second-year appointment) and a fall/spring grade 12 stipend level. Colleges are encouraged to appoint students at grades higher than 12 in order provide students total support packages higher than grade 18; the Graduate School scholarships will not be reduced for students afforded graduate assistantship grades higher than ½-time, grade 12. This is especially important for programs where all students are receiving grades higher than 18 for similar assistantship activities.

For students who will be on campus for the summer, Bunton-Waller assistantships may be awarded for a 12-month period at a ½-time grade 16 level, using a combination of the existing allocation from the Graduate School and funding from the college/school to cover the cost of the summer stipend.

Example: For AY 2018-19, a ½-time grade 18 stipend for a fall/spring (10-month) appointment is currently \$25,245. The total cost of a 12-month, ½-time grade 16 appointment is \$31,353, consisting of \$23,490 for the 10-month (fall/spring) stipend plus \$7,863 for the 12-week summer appointment. When the Graduate School’s allocation at the equivalent of a ½-time, grade 18 stipend is applied, the program will be able to pay the 10-month stipend of the ½-time grade 16 stipend (\$23,490) plus \$1,755 of the 12-week summer stipend at the same grade (16) level. College/school funding will be needed cover the remaining \$6,108 of summer stipend costs.

Higher stipends and/or supplemental scholarships can be afforded at the college’s discretion.

Master's Student Awards – This program is designed to recruit diverse prospective master's students by offering them two-year packages, to include an assistantship at the ½-time, grade 14 level (minimally) for a fall/spring (10-month) appointment. Alternatively, Bunton-Waller graduate assistantships for master's students may be awarded for a 12-month period at no lower than a ½-time grade 12 to enable colleges/schools to use Graduate School allocations in a manner that provides uniform stipend payments throughout each 12-month period. The first year of support is provided by the Graduate School and includes stipend, tuition, and student health insurance premium subsidy. The college/school must guarantee second-year support, including stipend, tuition, and student health insurance premium subsidy, with the stipend at an equal or higher level as that provided by the Graduate School in year one, providing that the student makes satisfactory academic progress. Higher stipends and/or supplemental scholarships may be afforded at the discretion of the college/school.

One-year master's programs will be supported by the Graduate School in the first semester and within the college/school in the second semester, to include an assistantship at (minimally) the ½-time, grade 14 level for a fall/spring (10-month) appointment. In addition to the graduate assistantship stipend in the second semester, the appointing unit will cover tuition and student health insurance premium subsidy. Higher stipends and/or supplemental scholarships may be afforded at the discretion of the college/school.

For master's students who will be on campus for the summer, Bunton-Waller assistantships should be awarded for a 12-month period at a minimum ½-time grade 12 level using a combination of the existing allocation from the Graduate School and funding from the college/school to fully cover the cost of the summer stipend.

***Example:** For AY 2018-19, a ½-time grade 14 stipend is currently \$22,185. The total cost of a 12-month, ½-time grade 12 appointment is \$26,934, consisting of \$20,205 for the 10-month (fall/spring) stipend portion, plus \$6,729 for the 12-week summer appointment. When the Graduate School's allocation at the equivalent of a ½-time grade 14 stipend level is applied, the program will be able to pay the 10-month stipend of the ½-time grade 12 assistantship (\$20,205), plus \$1,980 of the 12-week summer stipend at the same grade (12) level. College/school funding will be needed to cover the remaining \$4,749 of summer stipend costs.*

Higher stipends and/or supplemental scholarships can be afforded at the college's discretion.

Important Notes:

Bunton-Waller summer scholarships (also known as "BUNGA") associated with the original Bunton-Waller model will be discontinued for the new program. Colleges are invited to work with the Graduate School to explore how to retool their Bunton-Waller program if they have used BUNGA awards in the past.

Bunton-Waller awards may be topped up with Fund for Excellence in Graduate Recruitment (FEGR) or Graham funding allocations from the Graduate School, in accordance with University financial policies and college/school proposals that were approved by the director of the Graduate School's Office of Graduate Fellowships and Awards Administration.

If students decide to pursue their doctoral degrees after receiving funding through the BW program for master's degrees, they are not eligible for additional Bunton-Waller awards under the doctoral student program.

Processing

Bunton-Waller assistantships are to be processed by the recipient's program or college. In late spring semester, you will need to verify the students selected for BW awards (roster) for incoming and continuing students in GRATS; exact requirements will be communicated and the date is usually May 1. Any funds uncommitted by the rostering date will revert to the Graduate School and may be redistributed. At that time, requests for increases to college allocations can be considered. The final Bunton-Waller report will be due in the GRATS system. Please watch for updates on rostering/reporting requirements as the Office of Graduate Fellowships and Awards Administration implements GRATS.

Detailed instructions for posting appointments are forthcoming as more information about SIMBA becomes available. These will be sent in a separate communication. The Graduate School will enter summer monies into students' accounts for colleges who have Summer Scholarship "BUNGA" awards remaining for past cohorts Bunton-Waller funds as summer scholarships (\$2,500 per award). The funds are distributed in accordance with standard aid disbursement procedures. Students must enroll for the summer session to receive the summer grants and submit applications for the Summer Tuition Assistance Program to cover their summer tuition costs.