

Duke | Economics

12-Months Funding for Ph.D. Students

August 30, 2022

This document describes the policy for summer funding for students in all Year 1 through Year 5. In the document the term Summer X refers to the summer months (June through August) following academic Year X (September through May). In summary:

- students in Summers 1 and 2 are eligible for guaranteed fellowships from The Graduate School;
- students and Summers 3 and 4 are also eligible for guaranteed fellowships from The Graduate School or from the Economics Department; or they may postpone their fellowship to Summer 5 if they teach an undergraduate core course in summer 3 or 4;
- students in Summer 5 can be funded through a variety of compensatory or non-compensatory options, and may be eligible for “backstop” funding from Trinity Arts and Sciences.

Summers 1 and 2

Students in Summers 1 and 2 will receive the [GSSRF for First- and Second-Year Students](#), provided they apply for this funding.

Summers 3 and 4

Students in Summers 3 and 4 must apply for the [GSSRF for Third-Year Ph.D. Students and Beyond](#). If they are not awarded a GSSRF, they will be provided an Economics Department fellowship. These students may apply for compensatory funding (UG core teaching, internships, etc.) but are not required to do so. In addition, the following conditions apply:

1. Summer Fellowship Exchange—Students who teach a summer course for the department in Summer 3 or 4 will be guaranteed a fellowship from the department in Summer 5, provided they apply for but are not awarded the GSSRF in Summer 5.
2. At the end of the academic Year 4, the student and their advisor will discuss plans for completing the degree. If it is determined that the student will continue through Year 6, the advisor will propose the degree-completion plan to the DGS, including plans for funding in Summer 5.

Summer 5

Students in Year 5 must make every effort to find compensatory or non-departmental fellowship funding for Summer 5, including applying for some combination of options (a) – (h) listed below. (Note that (a) is mandatory):

- a. the [GSSRF for Third-Year Students and Beyond](#) (required),
- b. instructor positions for summer undergraduate or departmental graduate courses,

- c. fully-funded RA positions for Economics faculty or for faculty in other departments,
- d. half- or fully-funded graduate assistant (GA) positions paid by Economics department faculty,
- e. other Duke [fellowships](#),
- f. Duke Summer Internships (such as [here](#)),
- g. external internships,
- h. other funding which enhances progress toward the degree.

Fifth-year students who do not secure summer compensatory funding may be eligible for “backstop” funding from Trinity College of Arts and Sciences (A&S). In order to apply for this “backstop” funding in Summer 5, students must provide evidence that they have:

- (1) applied for but not been awarded the GSSRF;
- (2) applied for at least two other funding opportunities as listed in (b) – (h) above;
- (3) have the support of their advisor and DGS.

Deadlines for the A&S funding application and the process for demonstrating eligibility will be communicated by the department and The Graduate School.

Additional notes

- Students in all years who fail to apply for Graduate School summer fellowships by the deadline specified by the Graduate School may become ineligible for other department- or university-provided funding.
- If the funding secured by the student is at least half of the standard monthly stipend recommended by The Graduate School, the Economics Department will provide additional funding to bring the total up to the recommended stipend.
- Summer tuition, when required (for fellowships, RA-ships, and internships), will be paid by the department, The Graduate School, or the sponsored project on behalf of the student.
- Faculty should advise their students to explore compensatory experiences in any summer beginning with Summer 3.
- If students do not have summer funding through external or internal sources, are not able to secure summer funding on terms acceptable to them, and do not wish to take on an experiential fellowship or a mix of other summer responsibilities, they have the option to forego summer funding. In this case, the department will provide appropriate documentation to ensure mutual understanding between the student and the department.

Commented [ER1]: Puts slightly more onus on the student to show - though paperwork or otherwise - that they have done this

Commented [CK2R1]: Agreed

Commented [CK3]: Why not include (g) and (h) as well?

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Commented [ER4]: What happens if it's less than half? Does that ever happen?

Commented [CK5R4]: Good question. It hasn't been an issue before because we haven't had to provide Summer 5 funding. I was hoping this statement would give us the ability to decline top-up if, for example, a student's advisor hires them for a 15 hr/week summer GA but pays only \$1000. (This would essentially be a subsidized GA position, which we want to prevent.)

Commented [ER6]: Just being pedantic here. "to equal" could potentially be misinterpreted to mean that the department would pay the ENTIRE amount of the recommended stipend

Commented [CK7R6]: Phrasing matters. Thanks!