

Funding your Graduate Education

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Understanding different types of funding

- Internal funding vs. external funding
- Scholarships (tuition)
- Fellowships (stipend and often tuition)
- Graduate teaching/research assistantships
- Financial aid/student loans
- Research grants and awards



WSU Graduate School Scholarships: you must apply

- Graduate Professional Scholarships (200+)
 - Full tuition scholarship for Fall and Winter at the in-state rate
 - Students must be registered for at least 6 credits each term Application deadline: March 1
- AGRADE Master's Scholarships (~50)
 - For Wayne State alums who participated in AGRADE as undergrads and are starting their first Masters-only semester
 - Applications due Dec 1 and May 15
 - Partial tuition scholarship at in-state rate for Fall and Winter.



WSU Graduate School Scholarships for Master's students

Students are nominated by their program and selected by their school/college. No separate application is required.

- Master's Scholarships for Recruitment/Retention (~100)

 Partial tuition scholarship for Fall and Winter term at in-state rate
- Dean's Diversity Master's Scholarship (~10)
 One year full tuition scholarship for new Master's students at in-state rate
- Dean's Merit Scholarships (~50)
 - \$3,000 tuition credit per semester for up to 4 semesters, for international master's students participating in a 3+2 agreement



Graduate School Fellowships for PhD students

Thomas C. Rumble Fellowships (~100)

 By nomination One-year merit-based fellowship for recruitment, development or completion. Includes a \$20,000 stipend, tuition and subsidized health coverage.

Dean's Diversity Fellowships (~5)

 By nomination. Three-year award during which fellows have no service requirements. Includes a \$27,500 stipend, tuition and subsidized health coverage.

King-Chávez-Parks Future Faculty Fellowships (~10) – you apply

 Supports PhD students who have experienced economic or academic disadvantages with a stipend from \$9-\$10,000. Can be held concurrently with other awards. Funded by a grant from the State of Michigan KCP program.

Graduate Assistantships (GTA/GRA)

- Ask your program if assistantships are available
 - Not all programs have GTA/GRAs
 - A majority of GTA/GRA positions go to PhD students
 - Some programs do allocate them to Master's students
 - Ask how you can apply
- Benefits include stipend, tuition coverage and subsidized health insurance
- Application processes vary by program, GTA/GRAs are usually selected in Feb/Mar for the following academic year



Other WSU scholarships and grants

- WSU Scholarship Opportunities
 - An online clearinghouse of awards available through WSU schools and colleges
 - You can search with your WSU accessID as soon as you are accepted to a program
 - Scholarship amounts vary
 - Deadline: March 1 each year
- Department or program awards
 - Ask your graduate director or advisor

Private Scholarship Search Engines

These search engines list private external scholarships (from foundations, non-profits or corporations) for current and prospective graduate students. Amounts and application deadlines vary.

- SallieMae <u>Graduate School Scholarship Search</u>
- Unigo <u>Scholarships for Graduate Students</u>
- Scholarship America
- GoGrad (see resources tab for scholarships)

Financial aid

- May include grants, loans, work-study
- WSU Office of Financial Aid ← start here
- Federal Student Aid
- Fill out the FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid)
 - FAFSA opens each year on Oct 1
- Before accepting any scholarship or fellowship, consult with the <u>WSU Office of Financial Aid</u> to check how such an award may affect your financial aid package, including loan eligibility.



Final Tips

- Get started right away! File your FAFSA
- Talk to your graduate program director and <u>ask about funding</u>, and express your interest in being nominated for fellowships and scholarships
- Start exploring the WSU Scholarship opportunities database as soon as you are admitted
- Invest some time in searching for private scholarships
- Apply for everything you think might be a good fit!

