

PURDUE UNIVERSITY CIVIL ENGINEERING

Funding Your Graduate School

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Overview

- Terminology
- Types of funding:
 - ✓ Research Assistantship
 - ✓ Teaching Assistantship
 - ✓ Graduate Assistantship
 - ✓ Fellowships
- Hourly
- Internships
- Useful links and tips

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Graduate School Terms

- Graduate Staff Appointments (employment)
 - ✓ Research Assistantships
 - ✓ Teaching Assistantships
 - ✓ Graduate Assistantship - Administrative/Professional
- Fellowships (graduate scholarships)
 - ✓ Internal
 - ✓ External
- Quarter-time (0.25 FTE), Half-time (0.5 FTE)

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Funding in Civil

- Assistantships are the only mechanism at Purdue that waive tuition
- Half-time assistantships subsidize medical insurance
- No separate application for funding in Civil Engineering
- Funding is NOT guaranteed
- CE will only make half-time offers (i.e., cannot be funded as 0.25 FTE in CE)

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Research Assistantship (RA)

- Student employed by professor on a research project
- Terms/conditions set by professor within University regulations
- Contract for 9 months (academic year) or 12 months
- Annually renewed based on academic standing and progress made toward degree, and **continued availability of funding**
- *Usually* aligned with your research project
- Usually covers tuition, pays a stipend, some fees, may include medical insurance
- A RA may be combined with another assistantship or fellowship

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Teaching Assistantship (TA)

- Student employed by the school/department
- Terms/conditions set by department within University regulations
- Contract by the semester for 4½ months or 9 months
- Renewal of contract based on course need (typically based on the number of students in the course) and performance
- TA obligation will be in addition to research project (for thesis options)
- Contract may be renewed as often as each session
- Usually covers tuition, pays a stipend, some fees, may include medical insurance

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Teaching Assistantship (TA) Continued

- A TA may be combined with another assistantship or fellowship
- TA's can be OUTSIDE of the department
 - ✓ Contact departments you have a strong background in (e.g., mathematics, chemistry, biology, physics, first-year engineering, computer science)
 - ✓ Check Math as they sometimes hire engr. students!
<http://www.math.purdue.edu/jobs/ta/>.
- International Students
 - ✓ Can only work half time
 - ✓ Students from non-English speaking countries must pass the Oral English Proficiency Test before being permitted to be a contact TA

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Graduate Assistantship (GA)

- “Professional” position
- CE grad office will email out any GA positions they find out about
- GA positions typically from:
 - ✓ Grad School
 - ✓ Dean of Students
 - ✓ Libraries
 - ✓ College of Engineering
 - ✓ Women in Engineering Program
- May be combined with another assistantship or fellowship

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Fellowships

- Internal versus External
- Come in all shapes and sizes - award amounts vary greatly
- Terms/conditions are set by the provider of the funds
- Most internal fellowships require nomination
 - Bilsland Strategic Initiative and select others have application due earlier in the school year (November-January)
- May or may not include employment requirement

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Fellowships Continued

- Some may be combined with RA or TA
- Funded by school, college, university, or independent source
- Some can be deferred when other funding is available
- Some accept student applications; others rely on nominations
- Length of support varies
- Most require an application and/or essay

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How to Find Funding

- Check department websites
- Talk to professors about RA positions
(only after reading articles they have written and know details of their research!!)
- Talk to the professors in your area about information on TA positions
- Check out professional/honor organizations in your major area
(Tau Beta Pi, ASEE, SHPE, ASME, ASABE, NSBE, etc.)
- Review the Fellowship Database on the Graduate School Web site or the engineering list
- Apply for every fellowship for which you qualify – no matter the amount
- **Check Your Emails from Jenny!!!**

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Offer Letter

- Letter offering you financial support for enrolling at an institution – different from admission letter
- Pay attention to the details
 - ✓ Type of support (RA, TA, Fellowship)
 - ✓ Length of support (dates)
 - ✓ Terms and Conditions (What do you have to do?)
 - ✓ Coverage (tuition, fees, insurance, amount of support)
 - ✓ Cost of Living in that area compared to the support
- Acceptance is a binding contract

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Hourly work

- Can work hourly at Purdue
- Student jobs may be: tutoring, food court positions, fundraising, grading, libraries, residence hall staff, etc.
- International students:
 - ✓ CANNOT have half-time assistantship AND work hourly
 - ✓ Can work up to 20 hours per week
- Search for student work positions at:
<http://www.purdue.edu/dfa/stuemp/stuinfo.php>
- Hourly jobs do not provide for tuition remission

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Internships

- If your adviser “okays” it you can participate in summer or semester long internships
- International students need a CPT (Curricular Practical Training) to participate off-campus (see ISS office for more information)
- You can obtain these independently at job fairs, via networking, websites or can talk to Kathy Heath in the CE Main office.

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Tips and Useful Links

- Ask questions and get details before accepting
- Good planning avoids additional expenses
- International students → contact ISS for questions regarding obtaining social security numbers and other specifics
- Information for Funding at Purdue:
 - <https://engineering.purdue.edu/Engr/Academics/Graduate>
 - <https://engineering.purdue.edu/CE/Academics/Graduate/Future/Funding>
- Check Financial Aid for options to cover costs
 - <http://www.purdue.edu/dfa/>