

Charging Tuition Remission on Sponsored Programs

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Scope and Purpose

Graduate students may perform work on externally sponsored research projects under the supervision of a principal investigator (PI). Graduate student support may include a stipend and tuition remission. The purpose of this policy is to clarify the conditions under which PI's are expected to allocate tuition remission to a sponsored project.

Definitions

Tuition remission is that share of tuition that is a component of the student's total financial support from the University.

Overview and Background

Tuition remission for graduate students may be included in sponsored project proposals and awards provided that it is allowed by the sponsor, conforms to sponsor requirements, and is consistently treated across the University.

For sponsored proposals and awards, tuition remission must also meet the requirements of 2 CFR Part 200 section 466.

Tuition remission and other forms of compensation paid as, or instead of, wages to students performing necessary work are allowable provided that:

- The individual is conducting activities necessary to the award;
- The charging of tuition remission is in accordance with this guideline;
- The student is enrolled in an advanced degree program at the University, and the activities of the student in relation to the award are related to the degree program; and
- The tuition remission is reasonable compensation for work performed, and conditioned explicitly upon performance of the work.

Tuition remission for graduate students working on more than one sponsored project in any one semester must be prorated and charged to each project in the same proportion as the student's effort on each project.

Justification of actual tuition remission costs requires the same types of justification as other costs allocated to projects.

Guidance and Procedures

- Tuition remission costs will normally be identified as a direct cost within the “other direct” category of the budget for each graduate assistant budgeted in the Personnel category of the budget.
- Tuition remission on sponsored projects will generally be applied as a direct non-salary expense to the sponsored project supporting the graduate student’s compensation. Tuition remission costs are excluded from indirect cost assessment, unless sponsor policies/guidelines specifically allow for indirect cost assessment.
- Elective fees and penalties including parking, laboratory, student activity, and late registration/payment penalty fees, may not be charged to any grant or contract.
- If the (PI) must add a graduate assistant to a project that did not originally request funding for tuition remission, the PI is responsible for re-budgeting dollars from other direct cost categories to cover tuition remission costs, in accordance with sponsor guidelines.

National Institutes of Health (NIH) Cap on Graduate Student Compensation

The maximum amount that NIH will award to support graduate students remains at the stipend level for a postdoctoral scholar at zero years experience at the time of the award, as described in the current [Ruth L. Kirschstein National Research Service Award \(NRSA\) Stipends, Tuition/Fees and Other Budgetary Levels Notice](#). This amount is updated annually and published as a notice on the NIH website.

Current postdoctoral stipend levels are also included in the [Ruth L. Kirschstein National Research Service Award \(NRSA\) Stipends, Tuition/Fees and Other Budgetary Levels Notice](#) and updated annually, as noted above.