

External Fellowship Supplements and Top-ups

The J. Crayton Pruitt Family Department of Biomedical Engineering (PBME) desires to encourage current and prospective PBME Ph.D. candidates to solicit external graduate research fellowships from the National Institutes of Health (NIH) and the National Science Foundation (NSF). Therefore, PBME is implementing the following policy to supplement and/or top-up each student's stipend as follows:

NSF Graduate Research Fellowships (effective August 2016)

PBME will guarantee each NSF Graduate Research Fellowship (GRF) recipient receives a supplemental stipend of \$10,000 above the current standardized NSF fellowship rate for the duration of their NSF GRF award (i.e. three years).

Therefore, PBME will contribute funds to supplement the award up to \$10,000 (not to exceed \$10,000). This supplement would be inclusive of all other fellowships, awards, matching fund requirements, and other supplemental funding sources (if any) awarded to the student (e.g. GSPA, HWCOE, Pittman, McKnight, SEC Deans etc.) subject to the appropriate terms, conditions, and limitations. As a service to PBME primary faculty only, the PBME department will also cover any related matching funds for the GSPA awards (if required) for their NSF GRF advisees as part of this supplement. PBME will require affiliate faculty in the HWCOE to provide matching funds for the GSPA awards for their NSF GRF advisees as part of this supplement and will provide any additional supplemental funds to ensure each PBME student receives a total supplemental stipend of \$10,000.

NIH Type-F (F30 and F31) Ruth L. Kirschstein Predoctoral Individual National Research Service Award (effective August 2019)

NIH type-F pre-doctoral awards currently provide a stipend that is less than the PBME and GSPA minimum graduate assistant stipends. Additionally, NIH type-F awards often do not cover the full tuition and fees costs. This policy is being implemented to ensure that each PBME NIH pre-doctoral fellow receives a stipend equivalent to their pre-fellowship graduate assistant appointment and that their full tuition and fee costs are covered.

This will be done by requiring all advising faculty (PBME Primary and Affiliate) to provide the stipend top-up funding for each NIH type-F grant awardee in their lab, in addition to the tuition and fee costs which are unfunded by the NIH (only 60% of tuition and fee costs, up to \$16K, are awarded). Both the stipend top-up and additional tuition and fee costs must be supported by the advising faculty member.

In situations where the awardee is a PBME Ph.D. student and is advised by a PBME Primary Faculty, the PBME department and the faculty advisor will evenly split (50% each) the additional costs for the stipend top-up and tuition and fees for the awardee.

In situations where the PBME awardee is advised by an affiliate faculty, the faculty advisor will be responsible for the additional costs for the stipend top-up and tuition and fees for the awardee.

It should be noted that the institutional allowance associated with each type-F grant will be primarily used to support health insurance costs for the pre-doctoral awardee. Assuming a type-F grant is awarded to a graduate student that previously held a graduate assistant appointment, PBME will enroll the pre-doctoral awardee in COBRA GatorGradCare, which currently costs \$2,674.