

Graduate School, Getting It All Paid For? ::

There are many opportunities available to help you finance your graduate education, many of them specific to only graduate programs. The money is out there, the challenge is finding it. Be sure to research financial aid, scholarship, fellowship and assistantship deadlines...they are often earlier than application deadlines.

Graduate Assistantships:

Assistantships are provided by the university in exchange for service or work, usually on a part time (20 hours a week) basis. Assistantships may be awarded based on need, academic merit, or appropriate experience. The award may offer a monthly stipend, full or partial tuition waiver, or both. Some types of assistantships:

Teaching Assistants: teach undergraduate courses part-time. A TA is an important and valuable experience for those planning a career in college teaching.

Research Assistants :conduct research assignments under the supervision of faculty members. Sometimes a research assistantship can be used to meet degree requirements.

Residence Life, Student Affairs and Counseling Assistantships: these usually involve a combination of administrative work and counseling or advising. Residence life assistantships will require you to live in undergraduate housing, and usually offer room, board and a stipend (and possibly a tuition waiver). These assistantships are usually a part of programs in student personnel, psychology, social work or counseling. Even if you are not pursuing a degree in one of these programs, you may want to pursue this type of assistantship if your undergraduate experiences gave you some exposure to these fields.


Graduate Fellowships:


Fellowships are an outright grant for graduate study or research, which do not require any work or service in return. Some examples of well-known fellowships are the Rhodes, Fulbright, Rotary and Watson. Many of these types of awards require institutional support from a SLU faculty member - in other words, you cannot apply for them on your own. In addition to the well-known fellowships, there are other opportunities available through SLU or through the institutions to which you are applying. To be competitive for these awards, seek out your faculty advisor early (junior year) to learn more about opportunities.


Other Financial Resources:


 Loans

 Military

 Employers - some employers will reimburse education costs for employees who continue their education in a field related to their employment.

 Work (full or part time)

 Administrative Internships - given in exchange for administrative services, and are a great experience for students planning a career in education administration. These can be awarded based on academic merit, financial need, or appropriate experience. May provide a full or partial tuition waiver, a stipend, or both.

 Ask the schools and departments to which you are applying for information on opportunities specific to their school.