

# Ways to fund your Graduate Degree at UC Davis

## Types of funding

- Fellowships
  - Program fellowships
  - Grad Studies fellowships
  - External fellowships
- Academic Appointments
  - Teaching Assistant (TA)
  - Graduate Student Researcher (GSR)
  - Work Study
  - Reader
- Student Loans

## Fellowships

- A fellowship is the equivalent of a scholarship. You do not have to pay back this award as it is free money with a few strings attached ([see eligibility requirements here](#)).
- If the student is receiving a fellowship from the EPM program or from Grad Studies, they will be directly notified of their award via the email that they used in their admission application.
- Students are encouraged to apply for External Fellowships. See tips for finding external funding [here](#).

## Academic Appointments

- All on campus positions are posted on our online platform, [Handshake](#). All admitted students will be given access to handshake once they:
  - Submit their Statement of Intent to Register (SIR).
  - Register for classes for the fall quarter (typically in mid-June).
- Teaching Assistantships
  - Teaching Assistants are responsible for the conduct of recitation, laboratory or quiz sections under active direction and supervision of a regular member of faculty to whom the final responsibility for the course's entire instruction is assigned.
  - Teaching Assistantships are awarded by academic departments. EPM does not directly award students TAs, but we encourage all students to apply.
  - The application for our department (Environmental Science & Policy) will be sent to all admitted students in Mid-April. You will be notified if you are selected for a TA position directly. You will not be notified if you do not receive anything.
  - You may be qualified to TA for a course through a different department. We recommend that you contact [departments](#) directly to request an application. Each department may have a different process and deadline.
  - Any TA position 25% or greater covers tuition & fees + you will receive salary. For more on Salary Scales, please see [here](#).

- Graduate Student Research Assistantships
  - Graduate Student Researcher assists in performing research under the direction of a ladder-rank faculty member or authorized Principle Investigator (PI).
  - Research Assistantships are awarded by individual faculty members from faculty research grants. These positions are typically awarded to students within research programs, however some EPM students have obtained these positions.
  - Any GSR position 25% or greater covers tuition + fees **and** nonresident supplemental tuition (NRST). The student will also receive salary.
    - Salary is determined by your hiring unit. See salary steps [here](#). Typically a first-year student will begin between Step 3- Step 5, but while this is the general norm this is **not** a rule.
    - Summer GSR's can be worked up to 100%, and percentage is determined between the PI, Accounting Staff and the student. Tuition + fees are not accessed in the summer and **are not included even if you register for summer courses.**
- Work Study
  - Work study allows a student to earn financial aid through employment.
  - Work study requires a student to receive a GSR position and be deemed eligible by Financial Aid, which is determined based on their review of your FAFSA.
    - It is only available for GSRs, it is not available for any other position.
  - EPM does not provide you with a GSR position. If you find one, we do have available work study credits **which will only be available to you if Financial Aid deems you eligible.**
  - If you receive a GSR and would like to inquire about work study, please email [Jessica Penrose](#).
- Reader
  - The title Reader is given to a graduate or undergraduate student appointed for the ability to render diverse services as a course assistant, which will normally include the grading of student papers and examinations. Job duties can vary depending on the instructor.
  - Any reader position 25% or greater covers tuition & fees + an hourly wage.

### Student Loans

- If you would like to utilize student loans, you'll need to submit a FAFSA application.
- Please note, Pell Grants are generally for undergraduate students only.
- For questions on FAFSA, please contact [UC Davis Financial Aid](#).

### Financial Tips for Newly Admitted Graduate Students

- Please see a list of 10 financial support tips [here](#).