Ways to fund your Graduate Degree at UC Davis

Types of funding

- Fellowships
  - Program fellowships
  - Internal (Graduate 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.
- If students obtain other funding in addition to a fellowship, they should notify their Program Coordinator directly as it may change the status of their initial award.
- 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).
  - Obtain their campus computing account.
    - It takes approximately 2 weeks after submitting your SIR to obtain access to Handshake.
- 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.
- The application for our department Environmental Science & Policy will be sent to all incoming students (students who have submitted their Statement of Intent to Register) in mid-March. 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 undergraduate departments directly to request an application. Each department may have a different process and deadline.
- Any TA position 25% or greater time covers partial tuition & fees + 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 partial 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 at Step 3.
    - 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 the Program Coordinator.
• Reader
  o 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.
  o Any reader position 25% or greater covers partial 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.