



Graduate Funding Policy for 2021-2022

SUBJECT: GUIDELINES FOR FALL 2021 FUNDING SUPPORT OF INTERNATIONAL DOCTORAL STUDENTS WHO ARE OUTSIDE THE UNITED STATES

Graduate students play a vital role in the educational and research mission of the university. As the university transitions to primarily in-person instruction and operations for Fall 2021, students appointed as TAs or GAs are expected to perform their duties on-site. However, in recognition of the disruptions caused by travel restrictions, visa delays, or other COVID-19 pandemic related conditions, the university may provide some accommodations for students who are supported on a TA, GA, or Fellowship appointment.

TA/GA/Fellowship offers are at the discretion of the department/school. Departments/schools will make determinations on whether Fall/Spring TA/GA/Fellow assignments for continuing students can be fulfilled from abroad.

The guidance below outlines an exception process for supported international doctoral students, who are unable to make it to Rutgers in-person in the fall due to COVID-19 related disruptions. **To be eligible for support, students must meet the following conditions:**

The student is unable to come to the US in time for Fall 2021 for any of the following reasons:

- A US government-imposed travel restriction or entry ban that prevents travel to the US
- Local government (where the student resides)-imposed travel restrictions that prohibit travel within or outside the country
- Verifiable delays in visa issuance or other travel documents at US consulates abroad
- Other verifiable travel limitations such as airline policies, etc.

To be eligible, the graduate student must be appointed on a Teaching Assistantship, Graduate Assistantship or Fellowship, and the student must be registered and enrolled for the semester.

Continuing, matriculated international doctoral students (with “active” SEVIS records) who qualify for this exception, and if their work duties and research activities can be performed remotely (as determined by their graduate program), will be paid through existing pathways established during their residence in the United States. If a student arrives after the start of the semester due to pandemic-related delays, the TA/GA/Fellowship appointment (and funding level) will be determined by the graduate program based on if the work duties can be performed remotely until a student arrives. There may be cases where this is difficult due to the nature of the appointment (e.g. if the course is fully in-person). To receive payment, international TA/GA/Fellows must maintain active SEVIS status and be otherwise eligible for employment.

Newly admitted and funded international doctoral students AND funded students who started their programs from overseas in fall 2020/spring 2021 and have not been on-boarded into the Rutgers payroll systems (who remain overseas with “initial” SEVIS records) who qualify for the exception will be provided with scholarships or other forms of tuition remittance, as the University would for any similarly eligible and supported student beginning a doctoral program, provided they can enroll in approved online courses. Tuition scholarships will come from the resources that would have otherwise supported the student or another source of revenue as determined by the unit receiving tuition funds.

In cases where newly matriculated and continuing international graduate students with funding packages remain unable to travel to the US due to COVID in advance of the Fall 2021 semester, those students should be provided with tuition scholarships for the Fall 2021 semester, provided they can enroll in approved online courses.

International doctoral students who have not yet been able to secure the documentation necessary to be onboarded into the Rutgers HR and Payroll systems, and who do not have the documentation required for them to be employed, cannot receive a salary or stipend, and cannot receive health insurance.

The above represents university guidance for the Fall 2021 semester. It will be reassessed as federal or other relevant guidance change. Questions related to this guidance should be directed to students' graduate program director or the graduate school dean's office.