

Q&As on MU Internal Financial Processes

Q1: Do I apply for this award directly to the National Science Foundation, or through MU?

A: This is one of several fellowship programs where students **apply directly to the funding agency**, not through MU. MU does *not* track your application or create a fiscal record at this pre-award stage. If someone asks you about the “PeopleSoft grants module,” please tell them that GRFP applicants are not entered into this database. Students have no obligation to report the GRFP application to the department, Graduate School, or the Office of Sponsored Programs Administration (OSPA). If you have other questions, please contact Dr. Robin Walker (Walkerrob@missouri.edu or 573.882.8629 with the MU Graduate School.

Directions for 2010 GRFP applicants may be found at <http://gradschool.missouri.edu/financial/assistantships-fellowships/fellowships/external/nsf-research-fellowship/>. Additional application tips, worksheets, and essay examples may be found in Blackboard. Look under the My Mizzou tab, in the student organization folder. Go to Grad_Writer and enroll. You will see a button on the left for the 2010 GRFP.

Q2: If NSF offers a fellowship, how is MU notified?

A: The NSF does not notify institutions. In the spring, should you accept the GRFP award--and you intend to stay at MU--you must notify the fiscal person in the Graduate School (Ruth Erwin) as soon as possible. If the student elects to attend another institution, the fellowship travels with you.

Q3: How--and when--does NSF transfer the award?

A: The fellowship comes to the *Curators of the University of Missouri*, not the student, department, or Graduate School. In other words, while the NSF “awards” the student, the institution acts as payee for the student. Based on the past, NSF typically transfers funds to MU in the fall of the new fiscal year.

Q4: So when does a student’s stipend payments begin?

A: This depends on when the student proceeds with his/her research plan. Under normal circumstances, the NSF expects fellows to commence studies by summer or fall 2010. Since NSF does not transfer funds until later in the fall, MU establishes a temporary student account, so that stipend payments are not delayed.

Q5: Who sets up the accounts?

A: The fiscal person at the Graduate School sets up an account for the \$30,000 annual stipend, payable in monthly installments. At that point, the Office of Sponsored Programs Administration verifies and completes the PeopleSoft processing. OSPA passes account information along to Financial Aid, where the installments are launched.

Q6: Are taxes withheld?

A: No. However, fellowships are income. Taxes are payable by the student to the IRS.

Q7: What is the “Cost of Education Allowance,” and who receives these funds?

A: The \$10,500 Cost of Education allowance is discretionary, and is awarded to the institution, not the student. The MU Graduate School uses the discretionary allowance to pay the fellow’s tuition, fees, and health insurance.

Q8: What about indirect costs?

A: The Graduate School does not charge a handling fee. The GRFP stipend and the Cost of Education allowance are not subject to indirect costs or RIF.

