

## How NSF GRFP Stipends are Distributed at Mizzou

**NOTE:** With this fellowship program, students **apply directly to the National Science Foundation**, not through MU. If someone in your degree program asks you about “PeopleSoft” or “Sponsored Programs,” please tell them that GRFP applicants are *not* entered into the grants module until they are officially offered and formally accept a fellowship.

### **Q1: I have been offered a GRFP award and plan to accept. What do I need to do next?**

A: First, read the NSF [guide for fellows](#) to learn about your reporting obligations and fiscal matters. You must be officially admitted to a graduate degree program in the US to accept an award. Once you officially accept the fellowship, **notify your graduate institution** and submit a copy of your award letter. If you intend to stay at Mizzou, contact the Office of Graduate Studies’ Director of Business Administration, Patrick Smith ([smithpatric@missouri.edu](mailto:smithpatric@missouri.edu)) and the Associate Vice Chancellor for Graduate Studies, Jeni Hart ([HARTJL@MISSOURI.EDU](mailto:HARTJL@MISSOURI.EDU)), as soon as possible in the spring. If you elect to attend a different institution, the fellowship travels with you. Notify the GRFP Coordinating Official for that institution: See [FastLane GRFP page](#).

### **Q2: Does the NSF notify MU that I received the GRFP award?**

A: No. The NSF does *not* notify institutions because the award is offered to students, not institutions. Therefore, to receive your stipend payments, it is *critical* that you notify your graduate institution as soon as possible.

### **Q3: When does a student’s stipend payments begin?**

A: This depends on when the student proceeds with their research plan. Under normal circumstances, the NSF expects fellows to commence studies by summer (June) or fall after accepting the award. Because NSF does not transfer funds until later in the fall, MU establishes a temporary student account so that stipend payments are not delayed.

### **Q4: Who sets up the stipend account @ Mizzou?**

A: The Office of Graduate Studies’ Director of Business Administration ([smithpatric@missouri.edu](mailto:smithpatric@missouri.edu)) initiates an account. Your paperwork is processed internally; the Office of Sponsored Programs Administration (OSPA) verifies the award and completes PeopleSoft processing. Someone will contact you to complete required forms. OSPA and the Office of Graduate Studies then share your information with Financial Aid. Stipends will be distributed monthly through your financial aid account.

### **Q5: Are taxes withheld?**

A: No. However, fellowships *are* taxable income and you are responsible for reporting the fellowship amount to the IRS (see <https://gradstudies.missouri.edu/funding/assistantships-fellowships/tax-information/>) for more information.

### **Q6: What is the “Cost of Education Allowance,” and who receives these funds?**

A: The Cost of Education Allowance is awarded to the institution, not the student. At Mizzou, the Office of Graduate Studies uses the discretionary allowance to pay the fellow’s tuition, educational fees, and health insurance. **No funds from the Cost of Education Allowance are available to fellows.** Fellows must use their GRFP stipend (or other personal funds) to pay for their cost of living expenses, books, computers, research supplies, and miscellaneous fees. No exceptions. However, fellows are eligible to apply for supplemental funding from NSF (e.g., GROW and GRIP) to support internships and research expenses.

### **Q7: Does Mizzou receive indirect costs for facilities and administration?**

A: No. The Office of Graduate Studies does not charge a handling fee or other indirect costs to oversee the grants. The GRFP stipend and the Cost of Education Allowance are *not* subject to indirect costs or research incentive funds.

### **Q8: How--and when--does NSF transfer the funds?**

A: NSF typically transfers funds in the first quarter of the new federal fiscal year. The funds are sent to the *Curators of the University of Missouri*. Mizzou acts as payee and distributes the funds in monthly installments to fellows.

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