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# Paying for grad school

MSFP Group Meeting/Workshop  
2021

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# Sometimes you pay the school, sometimes you get paid

Medical School

Other Professional Schools

Masters in a specialty (genetic counseling, etc.)

MD/PhD

PhD Graduate School – we'll focus on this

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Stipends – like a salary, but less than in a company because grad student is considered 50% student + 50% employee

\$\$ from Training Grant to school or department or training program

And/or Research Assistanceship (RA) from professor's research grant

Many biochemistry/molecular biology departments guarantee stipends for whole time in grad school, but some don't

In some fields, a student is expected to apply for grants for support and funds to do research

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Teaching Assistanceship (TA), again grad student is considered 50% student + 50% employee

Might be only during semesters

Might be only available some semesters

Some departments have specific amounts – for example, 2 semesters total then the rest of the years as RA from training grant or professor's grant

Varies in how much work it entails

Some teaching experience good to have if you are thinking about an academic career

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# Fellowships

Could pay more than TA or RA

Looks good on your resume – good to get even if not more \$\$ than TA or RA

NSF <https://nsfgrfp.org>

NIH <https://researchtraining.nih.gov/programs/fellowships/F31>

<https://researchtraining.nih.gov/programs/fellowships/F99-K00>

Disease Foundations – might be project-specific or disease-specific, for example Cystic Fibrosis Foundation - <https://researchtraining.nih.gov/programs/fellowships/F99-K00>

Also look for college fellowships and awards

Also look for fellowships and awards from other places – state, organizations, other types of foundations

Other resources/databases to look for funding:

<https://scholarships.uic.edu/scholarships/additional-scholarship-resources/>

<https://grad.uic.edu/funding-awards/other-funding/online-funding-resources/>

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# Internships

Only allowed with some programs and department

For example, common with computer science or engineering

Often for just summer

Often with company, maybe also with government organization

Can pay a lot more than RA

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# Travel awards for meetings

Provides some support to attend a meeting (for example, \$500)

Usually need to submit an abstract for a talk or poster to present at the meeting – usually place to apply for award when submitting abstract online

Makes it cheaper to go to a meeting – limited travel funds in professor's grants mean students don't often get to go to meetings some funds could also come from department and/or college

Looks good on your resume

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