

Alternative Funding Sources for Graduate Students

General Reminders

- Positions found outside of the department will likely have a different (lower) pay rate than that of the Department of Biology.
- An Academic Student Employee (ASE) appointment must be at least 50% FTE to be eligible for a tuition waiver and covered GAIP benefits.
- Grants, scholarships, and other sources of funding may not fully cover the same benefits as a TA or RA appointment. Please consult with the Graduate Program Manager when anticipating to use this option for a quarter.

Searching for open ASE positions

Look here for open ASE positions in other departments. Frequently these will be student services areas, such as the Library or Admissions. Many departments are seeking year-long (3 quarter) commitments, so the best time to look is mid-late summer. However, new positions are generally posted before every quarter.

<https://uwhires.admin.washington.edu/eng/candidates/default.cfm?szLocationID=88>

Under “Category,” select “Academic Student Employee.”

Graduate Funding Information Service (GFIS)

Administered through the Library, GFIS specialists work with graduate students to help identify funding for both tuition and research related expenses. While this may be through typical TA or RA positions, they will also help you identify grants and scholarships for which you are eligible to apply.

<http://www.lib.washington.edu/commons/services/gfis>

Visit GFIS in person at the Allen Library. Check the website for updated drop-in hours or to make an appointment.

External Fellowships

The Graduate School maintains a list of external fellowships for which UW students are eligible to apply. Each fellowship has additional restrictions and deadlines.

<http://www.grad.washington.edu/students/fa/calendar.shtml>

Departmental Grant Calendar Deadline

The Department of Biology Grants Management team keeps an updated list of grant deadlines from major funding agencies on the website. Most of these are not geared specifically toward graduate students, you may find one that you can work with your PI on to submit a larger grant that would support your research. Many postdoc fellowship opportunities are also listed in this document.

<http://www.biology.washington.edu/admin/grants>, under “Finding Funding Opportunities.”

Be sure you are logged in to the departmental website for the link to work.

Taking a Leave of Absence

If you are writing your dissertation, this may be the most economical option. If approved by your advisor, going on leave allows you the flexibility to manage your time as you see fit to accomplish your goals. There is a quarterly leave fee of \$25 (excluding summer) which allows you to maintain access to UW resources. While on leave, you will not receive a paycheck or free insurance. To continue your GAIP coverage, you would need to self-pay.

To register to be on leave (available two weeks prior to the beginning of the quarter):

<http://www.grad.washington.edu/mygrad/student.htm>

Information on GAIP self-pay:

<https://www.washington.edu/admin/hr/benefits/insure/gaip/self-pay.html>

Use your Networks

Many employment positions are never posted anywhere, as candidates are hired through word-of-mouth and through utilizing their professional networks. Build and develop a local network both within and outside of the University to assist you in your job search, both as a student and once graduated. The Career Center offers a variety of resources, including workshops, handouts, and one-on-one meetings to assist you with your career endeavors.

Visit <http://careers.washington.edu/> for more information about their current offerings.