

***ISR Phd Student Stipends and External Support Policy Memo – January 2013***

To: ISR Faculty  
From: Nick Frollini, Deputy Director  
Date: January 16, 2013  
Re: PhD Student Stipends and External Support - An Important Update and Clarification

Dear Colleagues,

The department recently learned that its treatment of PhD students who bring their own funding (government sponsorship, NSF Fellowship, etc.) has been out of compliance with SCS norms, which are designed to encourage students to obtain, and reward students for obtaining, external funding on their own. We've increased stipends for impacted students, effective as of January 2013, to bring us into compliance with those norms and to make sure that all of our students are being treated equitably. My thanks to those of you who were impacted by this change for your understanding.

Going forward, and as you consider admissions for the fall, I wanted to make sure that everyone understood that there are going to be (minimal) costs associated with externally-funded students. While these costs will be a far cry from the ~\$88k "cost" of a PhD student funded by research grants, they are not zero, and you will want to plan accordingly.

For admitted students with some level of external support, advisors will need to plan on supplementing them to the SCS level + a Dean's Office approved 'bonus' of 1% of their total external support. Additionally, for students with dependents (including non-working spouses), the supplement will be increased by 10% of the SCS base stipend amount per dependent. Currently, the standard SCS stipend is \$2,425/month. Students receiving more than the SCS level of support are also eligible for a supplement due to the 'bonus' and dependent supplements.

Please allow me to illustrate by way of three examples:

**Low Stipend Scenario**

Student X has funding from her government equal to the SCS tuition of \$39,464 plus a \$1,500/month stipend paid year-round, for total support of \$57,464. The 'enhanced' total monthly stipend here would be \$2,425 + 1% of the support (\$574.64) for a total of \$2,999.64/month. The portion the advisor would be responsible for is \$1499.64/month (\$2,999.64 less the \$1,500 provided by the sponsor). Fully-burdened on grants this would be approximately \$20,785 per academic year -- less than 25% the "cost" of an unsupported student.

**Low Stipend + Dependents Scenario**

Student Y has funding from a private foundation equal to the SCS tuition of \$39,464 plus a \$2,200/month stipend paid year-round, for total support of \$65,684. He has a single dependent (a 10 year old child). Here the enhanced monthly stipend would be \$3,083.64 (calculated as above) PLUS an additional \$242.50 for the dependent child, for a grand total of \$3,326.14/month. The portion that advisor would be responsible for here is \$1,126.14/month or approximately \$15,608 per academic year on a fully-burdened basis.

**High Stipend Scenario**

Student Z has funding from her government equal to the SCS tuition of \$39,464 plus a \$3,000/month stipend paid-year round, for total support of \$75,464. She has no dependents. Here the enhanced stipend would be \$3,179.64 (again calculated as above). The portion the advisor would be responsible for in this case is \$179.64/month, or approximately \$2,490 per academic year on a fully-burdened basis.

I hope that this is helpful. Please do let me know if you have any questions.

Best regards,

