

To: Physics Graduate Students
From: Massimo Porrati
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Subject: Financial Support Facts and Rules

Summary Description

PhD students are guaranteed financial support by NYU for the first 4 years of study. Tuition Remission, Health Benefits and Matriculation Fees are paid by NYU for the first 6 years.

Our department will find sources of financial support past year 4 for all students as long as they are in good academic standing and make progress towards their PhD degree.

Support for the first four years

The support package includes a tuition remission, benefits and stipend, the last of which currently amounts to \$24,668 per nine-month academic year in 2012. It is revised yearly commensurate to cost-of-living increases.

As applied to the Department of Physics, FAR4 guarantees support for graduate students in good academic standing for a total of four years.

Sources of support for the first four years

1. GSAS MacCracken Fellowship (MCF). This fellowship allows graduate students to teach up to a maximum 20 hours/week. This fellowship *does not* include summer support.
2. a Departmental (MCF). These named Fellowship: Kessler or James Arthur (JAGA). JAGAs *include* summer support. JAGAs and Kesslers do not allow recipients to teach as a general rule. Exceptions can be granted only by consensual agreement of the Director CCPP and the DGS for James Arthur (JAGA) and by consensual agreement of the Director of CSMR and the DGS for Kesslers.
3. A Research Assistantships (MCF). They typically include summer support. Full RAs do not allow to teach; half-time RAs do.
4. Teaching. Students can "bank" GSAS MCFs during years 1 through 4 and earn part or all of all of their salary through adjunct work.

Teaching

Under the present rules, teaching is entirely optional. By teaching you can earn extra money on top of that provided by a MacCracken fellowship.

Support past year 4

Year 5

Due to the need of supporting many students with limited RA lines, fifth year students will have the lowest priority during assignment of RA and Departmental Fellowships. *The main source of support* in year five shall come from a) teaching b) Dean's or University-wide fellowships.

You will NOT need to teach DURING year five if you have "banked" one year of MacCracken fellowship in years 1 through 4.

Banking means that you will not receive a MacCracken immediately but you will get it back at the time of your choice (at the current updated rate).

You can bank MacCrackens by semesters or fractions of semesters (1,3/4,1/2,1/4). The only constraint is that your total income (MacCracken + other) must be more than about \$ 2000/month.

Support past year 5

It cannot be guaranteed from Kessler, JAGAs, GSAS fellowships, or RAs. If you do not get any of these fundings your primary source of support will be through teaching. Departmental funds will support you only under exceptional circumstances as determined by the DGS and the Department Chair and subject to availability of funds.

Other Policies

- Each January, the Department will submit to the graduate students a list of faculty advisers who have funds to support RAs. Individual faculty members can sign up as many new students as they have funds to support.
- Each January, the Department will determine the number of new theory RAs available for support from Departmental funds. Students wishing to do a theory thesis will need to pass some kind of screening at the end of the second year's spring semester, determined and administered by the theory faculty. Based on this screening, the theory faculty will determine who among those interested get theory RAs and with whom. The screening should be finished by spring break so those who do not get theory RAs have time to find another faculty adviser.
- Students who fail to find a faculty adviser by fall of the third year will be considered not to be in good academic standing and placed on academic probation.

A typical time line

Here is a typical time line outlining your study and research activity, the type of financial support you will get, and its sources.

Path A: student without external support in years 1-4

Fall semester, year 1 Try to pass the prelims in late August/early September. Enroll in core courses if not excused by passing prelims. Begin to get acquainted with research groups in department. Enroll in teaching during the spring semester (2 lab sessions)

Request banking of 1/2 spring semester MacCracken. Deadline: mid-November

Spring semester, year 1 Core course, teaching. Enroll in teaching for fall (2 lab sessions) getting acquainted with research.

if you have a research plan for summer you will get summer support (\$ 10,500 in 2012).

Summer semester, year 1 Preliminary research project.

Request banking of 1/2 fall semester MacCracken. Deadline: 3rd week of July

Fall semester, year 2 Advanced courses. Start looking for advisers. Enroll in spring teaching (2 lab sessions).

Request banking of 1/2 spring semester MacCracken. Deadline: mid-November

Spring semester, year 2 Theory students must pass theory admission exam. Look for advisers and research group that can support you through RAs.

Summer semester, year 2 Start research with specific research group and/or adviser.

Year 3 By this time you should typically be supported by an RA or a Named Fellowship. Theorists typically begin research in earnest during year three.

Year 4 Research. Support will be through RAs or Named Fellowships.

If you did not have an RA or Fellowship in years 3 and you are not having one in year 4, then you will have to bank 1/2 of your MacCracken (either spring or fall).

Apply for Dean's dissertation fellowship or horizon fellowship (deadline: February)

Request disbursement of banked MacCracken for fall of year 5. Deadline: 3rd week of July!

Year 5 *Request disbursement of banked MacCracken for spring of year 5. Deadline: mid-November!*

Many theorists graduate by the end of year five.

Year 6 finish your research and graduate! Support mostly from teaching.

Path B: student with external support in year 1

Before coming to NYU *Request banking of fall semester MacCracken. Deadline: 3rd week of July*

Fall semester, year 1 Try to pass the prelims in late August/early September. Enroll in core courses if not excused by passing prelims. Begin to get acquainted with research groups in department.

Request banking of spring semester MacCracken. Deadline: mid-November

Spring semester, year 1 Core course, teaching. Getting acquainted with research. *if you have a research plan for summer you will get summer support (\$ 10,500 in 2012).*

Summer semester, year 1 Preliminary research project.

Fall semester, year 2 Advanced courses. Start looking for advisers.

Spring semester, year 2 Theory students must pass theory admission exam. Look for advisers and research group that can support you through RAs.

Summer semester, year 2 Start research with specific research group and/or adviser.

Year 3 By this time you should typically be supported by an RA or a Named Fellowship. Theorists typically begin research in earnest during year three.

Year 4 Research. Support will be through RAs or Named Fellowships. Apply for Dean's dissertation fellowship or horizon fellowship (deadline: February)

Request disbursement of banked MacCracken for fall of year 5. Deadline: 3rd week of July!

Year 5 *Request disbursement of banked MacCracken for spring of year 5. Deadline: mid-November!*

Many theorists graduate by the end of year five.

Year 6 finish your research and graduate! Support mostly from teaching.

End notes

- You can teach more than what we suggest here. *This will increase your compensation.*
- If you get an RA in any of the following: spring semester of year 1, fall semester of year 2, spring semester of year 2, we will support you in year 5 for the same amount of time. The reason is that typically you cannot teach while on an RA so you will not have the chance to bank your MacCracken.
- *Teaching is voluntary in years 1-4, so the what suggested above is a guideline. Nevertheless we strongly urge you to adhere to it. If you do not bank enough MacCracken support for year five you will have to teach precisely when you should rather do research!*

- If you get a Fellowship (Kessler, JAGA, external) or an RA in either years 3 and 4 and *if you banked your MacCracken in years 1,2* we will provide 1/4 of your year 5 salary out of Departmental funds; *otherwise you will have to support yourself entirely by teaching in year 5!*
- If you get a Dean's dissertation Fellowship or a Horizon Fellowship in year 5, you can still use your banked MacCracken for summer support.
- The source of support for a student during the MCF years (1 through 4) is at the sole discretion of the Department. A student cannot refuse a given type of support (RA, JAGA Kessler etc.) without explicit consent of his/her adviser, the Director of the research group he/she belongs, and the Director of Graduate Studies.