

MOU: CLOSING THE 'STIPEND GAP' FOR PhD and MD/PhD STUDENTS IN THE SOM WITH STIPENDS SUPPORTED BY NIH INSTITUTIONAL TRAINING GRANTS AND INDIVIDUAL FELLOWSHIPS

I. DEFINITIONS

Stipends: Funds provided to full-time PhD students that are intended to offset the cost of living. In the SOM, stipends are described in the Stipend Policy of Graduate Council.

Stipend Gap: Institutional training grants and individual fellowships supporting PhD students, that are supported by the National Institutes of Health, are budgeted to include a stipend. The amount of the stipend is determined at the federal level, and is less than the stipend the School of Medicine offers to PhD students. The difference between the School of Medicine stipend and NIH budgeted stipend is called the stipend gap.

- II. PROBLEM:** Federal guidelines do not allow the use of federal dollars to fill the stipend gap. Thus, faculty must rely upon department funds to cover this gap for their students supported on training grants and fellowships. Different departments have different budgetary priorities, leading to unequal opportunities for faculty to have students supported by training grants and fellowships.

As these training grants and fellowships bring in significant tuition dollars it is to the advantage of the School of Medicine to have as many students as possible supported by these mechanisms.

- III. SOLUTION:** Beginning on **1 October 2022, and continuing through FY 24**, the School of Medicine will have a fund available that can be used to fill the stipend gap for all PhD students supported on Federal NIH, institutional, and individual training grants.

To request funds, research mentors must send an email to Graduate Studies (somgrad@ohsu.edu), and copy their departmental administrator, requesting SOM support to fill the stipend gap for a student on an NIH training grant or fellowship. Mentors need to include this sentence: *'I am requesting support to fill the stipend gap for [student name] who is supported by this NIH fellowship or training grant [name of grant] from [start date] through [end date] as I do not have available non-federal funds to make up this difference.'* Support only needs to be requested once.

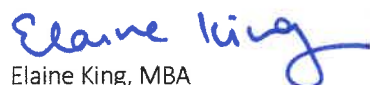
- IV. ELIGIBILITY:** Students must be (all conditions must apply):

- a. enrolled full-time in a PhD program within the School of Medicine or enrolled in the MD/PhD program
- b. receiving a stipend as described in the School of Medicine Graduate Student Stipend Policy
- c. conducting research with a mentor who is a member of the OHSU faculty
- d. conducting research in an OHSU (including the VA) funded laboratory

- IV. Institutional Support:** All new and renewed training grants and fellowships may include the following details under Institutional Support: *'The SOM will ensure the difference between the stipend(s) awarded on this grant and the higher stipend amount described in our stipend policy is covered. This total amount of institutional support for our PhD students is currently \$600,000/year.'*



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