

UConn Physics Graduate Program

Financial support opportunities

Teaching assistantship (TA): (duties: up to 20 hours per week) criteria: academic merit, progress towards degree, competence as teacher; English language certification is required for international students). Students must be in good academic standing with a GPA of 3.0 or higher, and must be making satisfactory progress towards their degree.

In order to be considered for TA support after the first year in the graduate program, international graduate students must obtain certification of English proficiency according to the UConn International Teaching Assistant Program). Only in exceptional circumstances will TA support be given beyond the first year if these tests have not been passed.

Teaching Assistantships: 5 year limit. In applying for TA financial aid from the Physics Department beyond the first 5 years, students must document progress towards their degree and present a concrete proposal for a timely completion of their degree.

Research assistantship (RA): students may obtain research assistantships directly from individual Faculty Principal Investigators, usually their Major Advisor. Students are strongly encouraged to pursue such research opportunities as early as possible during their degree.

Levels of compensation for TA's and RA's: these pay levels take effect in the semester immediately following the student's achieved new academic level: Tier I: Beginning student with BS; Tier II: MS or equivalent; Tier III: Passed general (prelim) exams.

Departmental and Graduate School Fellowships:

1. Pre-doctoral fellowships (criteria: merit, progress; usually for beginning students)
2. Graduate School Fellowships: Giolas-Harriott Fellowship, Crandall-Cordero Fellowship, Outstanding Scholars Program, Next Generation Connecticut Scholars Program.
3. Departmental Research Fellowship Awards. Merit-based awards from departmental endowments (Blonder, Frisius, Haller, Klemens, Nagavarapu, Pollack, Smith). Awarded to incoming students for summer research. Damon Award for more advanced experimental students.
4. Summer fellowships are generally available for beginning students preparing for written part of General Examination.
5. Summer school teaching assistantships are available.
6. Grad School Dissertation fellowship : completion of general exam (prelims) and approved dissertation proposal is required. Applications twice yearly: May and November.
7. Travel: After at least 30 credits, students are eligible to apply for a \$1000 travel award from the Graduate School.
8. Advanced students may apply for the Teaching Mentoring program, to gain experience teaching a one semester course.