Pilot Program for Graduate Fellows supported by external partners (i.e., Fulbright, U.S. Government Laboratories, industry partners)

Over the past several years, there has been an increase in the number of graduate appointments that are supported by external funding sources that do not meet the minimum standard for the student to be appointed as a graduate fellow (see appendix). Program leaders requested that the Graduate School assist in developing a mechanism by which the students, who receive these awards, could be appointed as graduate fellows. In response, the Graduate School, in coordination with the University Budget Office, developed a pilot program. The pilot program allows for the appointment of graduate fellows in cases where funding is:

- Provided by an established award, such as a Fulbright or other “portable” fellowship; or
- Part of a formal educational experience sponsored by a U.S. government/federally-funded organization such as Fulbright, NSF, NASA, EPA, NIH, USDA, Veterans Administration, or those in partnership with the National Academies of Sciences; or National Lab.

This pilot program allows for the appointment of graduate fellows under these circumstances.

- The stipend does not meet the minimum requirement for a fellowship appointment and/or the stipend is paid directly to the student.
  - Stipend must meet the minimum rate for a .49FTE graduate appointment established annually by the Graduate School. The portion of the stipend that is paid by the funding source program must be at least 70% of this minimum salary rate per month of a .49 FTE graduate assistantship, with the balance of the required stipend provided by other approved department resources.
- Funding meets requirements for a graduate fellow appointment, but the Graduate School is unable to provide tuition support due to waiver budget limitations and/or cases where the application was received after the deadline.

1 i.e., Fulbright, national labs, and foundation endowments
As graduate fellows, students would be charged tuition at in-state rates and would receive health insurance benefits.

Under this pilot program, colleges/departments are responsible for providing the necessary funding to augment the stipend and tuition support provided by the external funding source to bring the support up to the required level for the Graduate Fellow appointment.

Timeline
The pilot is in effect beginning with the 2019-20 academic year. It remains in effect pending results of a comprehensive review of current guidelines and budget for graduate student tuition support by a subcommittee of the University Budget Committee.

Process
Requests for students to be supported under this pilot program are to be sent to the Graduate School. Those requests must include approval from the relevant dean confirming that the request fits the intent described herein and affirms tuition support from the relevant college. Submit requests to Graduate.Scholarships@oregonstate.edu. The college/department must receive approval from the Graduate School prior to completing any Graduate Fellow paperwork.

Appendix
Definition of a Graduate Fellow
The Graduate Fellow appointment classification at OSU includes only those individuals who meet explicit eligibility criteria.

A Graduate Fellow will:

- Be admitted as a graduate degree-seeking student at Oregon State University; and
- Be currently enrolled full-time at Oregon State University, completing a minimum of 9 credits per term during the academic year (12 credits if receiving tuition support from
any of the Graduate School’s tuition waiver support programs; 3 credits during summer session; and

- Be awarded a graduate fellowship and/or traineeship that can be independently and transparently identified; and

- Be awarded a graduate fellowship and/or traineeship with a stipend that is administered in part or in full by Oregon State University, and that throughout the fellowship award period meets or exceeds the prevailing recommended minimum rate for .49 FTE graduate appointments as established annually by the Graduate School; and

- Be awarded a graduate fellowship and/or traineeship that provides funding for the cost of the minimum required tuition enrollment (either independently or in combination with any of the Graduate School’s tuition waiver support programs); and

- Be funded by a single source of funds; and either

  - Be sponsored by NSF (GRFP, GK-12, IGERT); NASA (ESSF); EPA (STAR); NIH(NRSA; NIEHS); USDA (FAS NFF); or those in partnership with the National Academies of Sciences including the Ford Foundation and the Vietnam Education Foundation; or

  - Be either sponsored externally or internally by a single source of funds (such as through the OSU Foundation or other authorized funds designated by the Provost for strategic purposes) with a stipend that throughout the fellowship award period meets or exceeds the prevailing recommended minimum rate for .49 FTE graduate appointments as established annually by the Graduate School.