

MEMORANDUM

To: Academic Deans, Vice Deans, and Associate Deans with Responsibility for PhD Programs

From: Andrew Stott, Vice Provost for Academic Programs and Dean of the Graduate School
Meredith Drake Reitan, Associate Dean, Graduate School

Date: January 4, 2024

Subject: Revised Minimum Stipend for PhD Students, AY 2024-2025

This memo supersedes the previous memo of April 6, 2022.

Following the ratification of the Collective Bargaining Agreement between USC and the union representing graduate student workers, USC's minimum total stipend for PhDs will be \$40,000 beginning in AY 2024-25. The stipend rate for the current semester (Spring 2024) does not change.

For programs where the AY 2023-24 stipend was above the university's previous minimum of \$35,700, the stipend should be raised to \$40,000 or by 4.5%, **whichever is greater**.

For example:

Where the AY 23-24 stipend was \$38,000, the AY 24-25 stipend will be \$40,000;
Where the AY 23-24 stipend was \$38,700, the AY 24-25 stipend will be \$40,442;
Where the AY 23-24 stipend was \$40,000, the AY 24-25 stipend will be \$41,800.

This is the formula for the university minimum. Programs are, of course, free to provide stipends above minimum rates. The minimum stipend raise applies to both new and continuing PhD students.

Total stipends may be paid in the form of fellowships, teaching assistantships, research assistantships, graduate assistant lectureships, top offs, various forms of government support, or combinations of these elements.

Schools are expected to ensure that all PhD students are supported at the level of the university minimum total stipend, or at a higher level for the duration of the package in their original offer letters.

The Multi Year Funding Offer system will be available at the start of the new year. Please email Meredith Drake Reitan at mereditd@usc.edu and Laura Yoneda at lyoneda@usc.edu before January 15, 2024 with the amount your school will be providing as a minimum stipend in AY 24-25.

USC health and dental insurance policies and the USC student health center fee will continue to be part of the PhD funding package. The cost of these fees will be provided by the Student Health Office. There is no change in the way PhD tuition is handled by the university.

We appreciate your patience as we work through the details of the newly ratified union contract. If you have questions about stipends or other related issues, please feel free to reach out to Meredith Drake Reitan at mereditd@usc.edu.

Cc:

Andrew Guzman

Mark Todd

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