

FAQ for Fully Funded PhD Package-Students
(July 2015)

How many years of support are included in the PhD fully funded package?

Five years.

What level of support is guaranteed?

Five academic years (2 pre-candidate and 3 candidate) equivalent to a 50% GSI/SA/RA appointment (stipend, tuition/mandatory fees waiver, and benefits), plus benefits and a \$5,000 stipend for the four intervening summers. Students must remain in “good standing” as deemed by the [PhD Timeline](#) and [Handbook](#) to be eligible for continuing their funding package.

What if a student does not pass the background check required for all GSA appointments?

Since successful passing of the background check is required and GSI/SA/RA positions are part of the package, then the student will not be eligible for the PhD package funding.

What happens if the student and/or advisor are unable to obtain funding?

If the student and faculty advisor have made a good faith effort, but were unsuccessful in obtaining funding for any term, SEAS will provide the support. This will require the associate dean’s approval of a plan for future funding.

Can the student receive other summer support in addition to the SEAS \$5,000 stipend?

Yes. A student may work hourly up to 12 hours per week, or have a Sp/Su GSI/SA/RA appointment up to 30%, or receive up to \$6,000 from a separate fellowship source and still receive the \$5,000 SEAS Sp/Su stipend.

The student is working 14 or more hours per week as an hourly for the Sp/Su term—is s/he still eligible to receive the SEAS Sp/Su stipend?

No.

The student has a 35% or greater GSI/SA/RA appointment stipend for the Sp/Su term—is s/he still eligible to receive the SEAS Sp/Su stipend?

No.

The student has a separate fellowship stipend (over \$6,000) for the Sp/Su term—is s/he still eligible to receive the SEAS Sp/Su stipend?

No.

What happens if a student is determined to be not in “good standing”?

The package funding eligibility is forfeited for any term that the student is not in “good standing”.

What needs to happen for the PhD package support to become active again once a student returns to “good standing” status?

Once the student returns to “good standing”, the student should inform their faculty advisor. The associate dean then needs to review and approve the student’s eligibility to resume funding support and will notify the SEAS financial aid coordinator to make sure appropriate funding is in place.

If a student takes longer than 5 years to complete the program, are they still considered to be in “good standing”?

No. The PhD program should not take longer than 5 years to complete.

If the student takes longer than 5 years to complete the program, what are his/her funding options?

The student would not be eligible to apply for GSI positions within SEAS. The student may be eligible to apply for GSI positions across campus and apply for fellowship support outside of SEAS.

If the student takes longer than 5 years to complete the program, is s/he eligible to be nominated by SEAS for Rackham fellowships?

No. SEAS would not consider the student eligible for nomination for any Rackham fellowships to fund past the fifth year.

Are there any exceptions to the 5 year completion requirement?

Yes. If the student takes one or more terms as a leave of absence, those terms would not be eligible for funding support and would not be counted in the 5 year time limit.