Fellowship Deferral and External Award Policy for Graduate Center Fellows, Presidential MAGNET Fellows, Enhanced Chancellor’s Fellows, Humanities Fellows, Mathematics Fellows, Neuroscience Fellows, CUNY Science Scholars and Five-Year Tuition Fellows

(Effective Fall 2014)

Fellowship Deferrals

1. After their first year, students on Graduate Center Fellowships (GCF), Enhanced Chancellor’s Fellowships (ECF), Mathematics Fellowships (MF) and Presidential MAGNET Fellowships who take a leave of absence from the Graduate Center may defer a maximum of two semesters of their fellowships (tuition, stipend, benefits and service) to a sixth year. Students on Five-Year Tuition Fellowships (TF) may defer their tuition award for up to two semesters.

2. After their first year, students on Humanities Fellowships (HF) who take a leave of absence from the Graduate Center may defer a maximum of two semesters of their fellowships (tuition, stipend, benefits and service) to a sixth year. The HF may be deferred only for medical or other compelling reasons and only with the approval of the student’s Executive Officer and the Provost’s Office.

3. After their first year, students on Neuroscience Fellowships (NF) and CUNY Science Scholarships (CSS) who take a leave of absence from the Graduate Center may defer a maximum of two semesters of their fellowships (tuition, stipend, benefits and service) to a sixth year. The NF or CSS may be deferred only for medical reasons or to conduct research in an off-campus setting and only with the approval of the program’s Executive Officer and the student’s research mentor.

External Funding

If a student is offered external funding while holding the GCF, ECF, MF, or MAGNET, the student has the following three options:

1. Defer the GCF, ECF, MF or MAGNET to a sixth year as described above. This option is available for a maximum of two semesters.

2. If the external award is at least $10,000 annually, accept the external award and receive from the Graduate Center a top-up to a maximum of $5,000 over the annual stipend of their fellowship and be released from their normal fellowship service in that year. The student is awarded a Graduate Assistantship D, with limited service to be arranged by his/her Executive Officer. The student also receives the tuition he/she would normally receive under the terms of his/her
fellowship and is eligible for NYSHIP health insurance. All years in which a top-up is provided are counted as part of the five years of the GC fellowship.

3. Keep both the external award and the GCF, ECF, MF or MAGNET. There is no Graduate Center cap on what the student can receive, but service associated with the GCF, ECF, MF or MAGNET will still be required. Students should note, however, that some external awards may limit additional service the student can perform or support they can accept. Under that circumstance, the rules of the external agency prevail.

If a student is offered external funding while holding the HF, the student has the following two options:

1. If the external award is at least $10,000 annually, accept the external award and receive from the Graduate Center a top-up to a maximum of $5,000 over the annual stipend of their fellowship and be released from their normal fellowship service in that year. The student is awarded a Graduate Assistantship D, with limited service to be arranged by his/her Executive Officer. The student also receives the tuition he/she would normally receive under the terms of his/her fellowship and is eligible for NYSHIP health insurance. All years in which a top-up is provided are counted as part of the five years of the GC fellowship.

2. Keep both the external award and the HF. There is no Graduate Center cap on what the student can receive, but service associated with the HF will still be required. Students should note, however, that some external awards may limit additional service the student can perform or support they can accept. Under that circumstance, the rules of the external agency prevail.

If a student is offered external funding while holding the NF, CSS or TF the student has the following two options:

1. Defer the fellowship and roll over the NF or CSS award to a sixth year as described above. This option is available for a maximum of two semesters.

2. Keep both the external funding and the NF, CSS or TF. There is no Graduate Center cap on what the student can receive, but service associated with the NF or CSS will still be required. Students should note, however, that some external awards may limit additional service the student can perform or support they can accept. Under that circumstance, the rules of the external agency prevail.
Students wishing to defer their fellowships should note that there are separate administrative processes and separate guidelines for taking a leave of absence from the Graduate Center, which are described in the Graduate Center's Student Handbook.

To defer a fellowship or receive a top-up students must submit the Fellowship Deferral and External Award Form at least one month before the beginning of the semester in which they want to begin the deferral or receive the top-up.