The Graduate Center Fellowship – Breakdown of Funding Over Five Years

Five-Year Graduate Center Fellowship. The Graduate Center offers two hundred five-year Graduate Center Fellowships to entering students. The fellowship provides a funding package of tuition and $25,000 each year for the first five years of study. The fellowship consists of a stipend, a graduate assistantship, a summer research stipend, and a tuition award, as well as eligibility for low-cost individual or family NYSHIP health insurance. Support for the Fall and Spring semesters is $23,000 and the summer research stipend is $2,000.

In the first year, Graduate Center Fellows (GCFs) serve as research assistants within their own doctoral programs. In the second, third, and fourth years, the GCF teaches one course each semester at a CUNY college, which is arranged by the student’s doctoral program. In the fifth year, the GCF serves as a Writing Across the Curriculum (WAC) Fellow, or in a similar assignment, at a CUNY college.

Below are the components of the Graduate Center Fellowship for each of the five years.

Year 1.

Annual Funding of $25,000 and Tuition

Graduate Assistantship. Non-teaching Graduate Assistant B (GAB).

Non-Teaching Graduate Assistant B Service. A Fellow performs 7.5 hours of service per week during each 15-week semester, a total of 225 hours for the academic year. A GCF normally serves as a research assistant within his or her own doctoral program.

Non-Teaching Graduate Assistant B Salary. $10,841 paid biweekly through New York State payroll checks over 12 months (normally starting from the first day of the Fall semester).

Stipend. Non-Service University Fellowship Stipend: $12,159 paid in two installments by the Office of Financial Aid. One half is normally paid three weeks after the start of the Fall semester; the second half is normally paid three weeks after the start of the Spring semester. This stipend and GAB salary total $23,000.

Summer Research Stipend. $2,000. The summer research stipend will be paid to the Fellow through the Office of Financial Aid in June.

Tuition Award. In the first year of study, Graduate Center Fellows receive tuition up to 16 credits per semester at either the in-state or out-of-state tuition rate depending on their residency status during the previous 12 months. International students are considered to be out-of-state residents. It is important to see below for the tuition awards that Graduate Center Fellows receive in the subsequent four years of their fellowships and also the explanation of residency requirements.
Years 2 through 4.

Annual Funding of $25,000 and Tuition

Graduate Assistantship. Teaching Graduate Assistant B (GAB).

Teaching Graduate Assistant B Service. The Fellow teaches one course in the Fall and Spring semesters at one of CUNY’s four-year undergraduate colleges. The Executive Officer of the Fellow’s program arranges the college teaching assignment.

Teaching Graduate Assistant B Salary. $10,841 paid biweekly through New York State payroll checks over 12 months (normally from the first day of the Fall semester through the last day before the start of the next semester).

Stipend: Non-Service University Fellowship award. $12,159 paid by the Office of Financial Aid. The stipend is paid in two installments. One half is normally paid three weeks after the start of the Fall semester; the second half is normally paid three weeks after the start of the Spring semester. This stipend and GAB salary total $23,000.

Summer Research Stipend. $2,000. The summer research stipend will be paid to the Fellow through the Office of Financial Aid in June.

Tuition Award. Starting in their second year and for the remaining three years of their fellowship, Graduate Center Fellows who are U.S. citizens or Permanent Residents receive a tuition award up to 16 credits per semester at the in-state tuition rate. If they are not already New York State residents or do not choose to establish New York State residency by the beginning of their second year, they must pay the difference between the in-state tuition award they will receive and the out-of-state tuition rate they will be charged. Graduate Center Fellows who are international students receive tuition up to 16 credits per semester at the out-of-state tuition rate for the four remaining years of this fellowship.

Learn more about establishing New York State residency.

Year 5.

Annual Funding of $25,000 and Tuition

Service. The Graduate Center Fellow serves as a Writing Across the Curriculum (WAC) Fellow at one of the CUNY undergraduate colleges. The service is 15 hours per week for 15 weeks each semester. The service is compensated in two ways, 7.5 hours through a non-teaching Graduate Assistant B salary and the remaining 7.5 hours through a University Fellowship Award with service.

Graduate Assistantship. Non-teaching Graduate Assistant B (GAB), service and salary below.
Non-Teaching Graduate Assistant B

Service. 7.5 hours of service per week during each 15-week semester, a total of 225 hours for the academic year.

Salary. The non-teaching GAB receives a salary of $10,841 which is paid biweekly through New York State payroll checks over 12 months (normally from the first day of the Fall semester through the last day before the start of the next semester).

Stipend. Service University Fellowship award. $12,159 University Fellowship award with service paid by the Office of Financial Aid. The stipend will be paid to the student in two installments; one half of the amount will be paid three weeks after the start of the Fall semester and the second half will be paid three weeks after the start of the Spring semester. This stipend and GAB salary total $23,000.

Summer Research Stipend. $2,000. The summer research stipend will be paid to the Fellow through the Office of Financial Aid in June.

Tuition Award. In their fifth year, as in years 2, 3, and 4 of their fellowship, Graduate Center Fellows who are U.S. citizens or Permanent Residents receive a tuition award up to 16 credits per semester at the in-state tuition rate. If they are not already New York state residents or do not choose to establish New York State residency by the beginning of their fifth year, they must pay the difference between the in-state tuition award they will receive and the out-of-state tuition rate they will be charged. Graduate Center Fellows who are international students receive tuition up to 16 credits per semester at the out-of-state tuition rate in all five years of their fellowship.

Other GC funding Graduate Center Fellows may hold concurrently:

- The Graduate Center’s Sue Rosenberg Zalk Student Travel and Research Fund for $200–$300 to attend a conference or to cover research expenses. (Students may apply annually for these funds.)

- The Graduate Student Research Program (GSRP) competition for an award of up to $1,500 to support students’ academic research. Fellows may apply annually for this award during years 2 through 6 of their study.

- Provost’s Digital Innovation Grants are small awards to support cutting-edge digital projects designed, created, programmed, or administered by Graduate Center students; students submit proposals to an annual competition for these awards.
Other GC funding available but which may not be held concurrently:

- The Graduate Center’s Dissertation Fellowship competition. Advanced students are eligible to hold a Dissertation Fellowship when they are Level 3. While they may not hold a major dissertation fellowship and a GCF at the same time, a Dissertation Fellowship is a potential source of subsequent fellowship support. Guidelines can be found on the Provost’s Office website.

Learn more about other available GC funding.