

## EECS Guidelines Regarding External Fellowship Awards

Financial support for registered graduate students is required over three periods of the academic year: fall semester, spring semester and summer session (for a total of 12 months). Full financial support consists of the monthly EECS salary/stipend, MIT tuition, and annual single-person medical insurance. For a registered graduate student, the financial support will be provided by a teaching assistant (TA) appointment or a research assistant (RA) appointment or a fellowship award (originating internal to MIT or provided by a sponsor/foundation/agency external to MIT). During the PhD program (and even during a single semester), a combination of TA/RA/fellowship is common for full financial support. For an external fellowship award, the sponsor will specify the dollar amount of the award, the duration or timeframe of the award, and importantly the **allowed use** of the funds of the award. The sponsor will indicate the amount of funds for stipend (or living expense) and amount of funds for tuition and will indicate what expenses or conditions are not allowed. ***This document provides information relevant to how an external fellowship award may impact a student's financial support.***

EECS graduate students should consult with their research supervisor, the EECS graduate office staff Liza Ruano, and the EECS graduate officer Professor Leslie Kolodziejski when an external fellowship award is received. Some external fellowships impose restrictions on how the funding may be used, and hence it is important to assess these conditions before accepting the award.

### Overarching guidelines are:

- The EECS department will not provide **any** external fellowship supplementation.
- MIT has agreements in place to guarantee full external fellowship supplementation with two agencies only (NSF and NASA).
- The research supervisor is expected to provide the external fellowship supplementation using a research assistantship (RA) appointment and/or a fellowship appointment for any shortfalls in tuition, salary/stipend, or medical insurance. Accounts (or cost objects) that allow such expenditures include discretionary funds, external gifts, and sponsored research accounts. [The fiscal officer managing the account (or cost object) can help to determine whether tuition, salary/stipend, and medical insurance are allowable expenses on a particular account.]
- A research assistantship (RA) appointment is allowed when it is used to cover a shortfall with a greater percentage of salary and an equal or lesser percentage of tuition.
- A research assistantship (RA) appointment is NOT allowed when a smaller percentage of salary and greater percentage of tuition are needed. Instead, two appointments are needed in this case. An RA appointment with equal percentage of support for salary and tuition using discretionary funds, external gifts, and sponsored research accounts, and a fellowship appointment for the remaining tuition (shortfall) using discretionary funds and external gifts. [The fiscal officer managing the accounts can help to determine whether tuition, salary/stipend, and medical insurance are allowable expenses.]
- If the research supervisor is unable to provide the external fellowship supplementation, the remaining shortfall(s) will be the responsibility of the graduate student.

**Below you will find various “External Fellowship Supplementation” scenarios**

In each scenario, in addition to tuition, various amounts of salary/stipend, and using MIT graduate funding policies, the amounts and type of supplementation are provided. MIT determines the graduate funding policy by considering research administration rules, national and state labor laws, and contract obligations originating from the graduate student union’s collective bargaining agreement. For illustration purposes only, the scenarios identify the various amounts needed for a single semester (the Fall 2024 term), but similar amounts will be required for the Spring 2025 term.

For the 2024-2025 academic year, the following rates apply:

1. **EECS External-Fellowship Salary/Stipend Rate**
  - a. Master’s level: \$4,342 per month (\$19,539/semester or \$52,104/12 mos.)
  - b. PhD level: \$4,754 per month (\$21,393/semester or \$57,048/12 mos.)
2. **MIT Annual Tuition:** \$61,990
  - a. Per fall or spring semester: \$30,995
3. **MIT Annual Single-person Health Insurance Plan (SHIP):** \$3,603
  - a. Fall 2024 semester: \$1,501
  - b. Spring 2025 semester (expiration Aug. 31, 2025): \$2,102

**Scenario 1: Full financial support:** external fellowship provides the EECS external fellowship stipend rate, full annual MIT tuition, full annual medical insurance. [Very few external fellowships provide full financial support, and the exception is fellowship awards having a prior agreement with MIT.]

- In agreement with MIT, NSF and NASA fellows are fully funded combining their external fellowship award with an internal MIT institute-level fellowship award. [No external fellowship supplementation is required by either the research supervisor or the graduate student.]
- Graduate student receives a NASA Fellowship for the 2024-2025 academic year. The NASA Fellowship provides \$3,000 in stipend per month for 12 months; \$20,500 in tuition per academic year; and \$2,500 in health insurance per academic year.

Fall 2024 Support (9/01/24 – 1/15/25)	NASA (same for spring term)	MIT Fellowship	Total
Salary/Stipend (Master’s Level)	\$13,500	\$6,039	<b>\$19,539</b>
Tuition	\$10,250	\$20,745	<b>\$30,995</b>
Insurance	\$1,250	\$251	<b>\$1,501</b>
<b>Total:</b>	<b>\$25,000</b>	<b>\$27,035</b>	<b>\$52,035</b>

**Scenario 2. Full salary/stipend, little or no tuition provided:** external fellowship provides the EECS external fellowship stipend rate, but a smaller tuition award or no tuition award.

- Graduate student receives an external fellowship award for the 2024-2025 academic year that provides their full-term EECS stipend and \$5,000 in tuition support. Medical insurance is not covered by the external fellowship. Per MIT’s graduate funding policies, such a ‘tuition-heavy’ RA appointment (or a ‘tuition-only’ RA) is not allowed. The student’s tuition shortfall and annual medical insurance must be provided with a supplement. The research supervisor can provide the supplement using an account (or cost object) that allows tuition and student medical insurance as expenses. Such accounts are gift accounts or discretionary funds, and occasionally sponsored research accounts (the fiscal officer who manages the account must review the contract agreement for allowable expenses).

Fall 2024 Support (09/01/24 – 1/15/25)	External Fellowship	Tuition + Insurance Supplement	Total
Salary/Stipend (Master’s Level)	\$19,539	\$0	<b>\$19,539</b>
Tuition	\$5,000	\$25,995	<b>\$30,995</b>
Insurance	\$0	\$1,501	<b>\$1,501</b>
<b>Total:</b>	<b>\$24,539</b>	<b>\$27,496</b>	<b>\$52,035</b>

**Scenario 3. Partial EECS stipend plus partial tuition coverage:** external fellowship provides a percentage of the EECS external fellowship stipend and some portion of MIT’s tuition.

Example A:

- Graduate student receives an external fellowship award for the 2024-2025 academic year that provides 25% of their EECS stipend and \$15,000 in MIT tuition support. Medical insurance is not covered by the fellowship. Per MIT’s graduate funding policies, the student’s research supervisor can provide a 75% RA appointment to cover the shortfall in the student’s salary/stipend and up to 75% of the term’s tuition. The RA appointment can use sponsored research accounts or discretionary funds.

Fall 2024 Support (09/01/24 – 1/15/25)	External Fellowship	RA supplement from research supervisor	Total
Salary/Stipend (Master’s Level)	\$4,884.75	\$14,654.25	<b>\$19,539</b>
Tuition	\$15,000	\$15,995*	<b>\$30,995</b>
Insurance	\$0	\$1,501	<b>\$1,501</b>
<b>Total:</b>	<b>\$19,884.75</b>	<b>\$18,961.25</b>	<b>\$52,035</b>

\*Max tuition allowed on 75% RA appointment: \$23,246.25.

Example B:

- Student receives an external fellowship award for the 2024-2025 academic year that provides 75% of their EECS term stipend and \$15,000 in tuition support. Medical insurance is not covered by the fellowship. Per MIT’s graduate funding policies, the student’s research supervisor can provide a 25% RA appointment (using sponsored research accounts) to cover the shortfall in the stipend; accordingly, the 25% RA will then cover 25% of the tuition. The remaining tuition shortfall must be covered by an account that allows tuition as an expense or by the graduate student.

Fall 2024 Support (09/01/24-1/15/25)	External Fellowship	25% RA supplement from research supervisor	“Tuition-only” supplement	Total
Salary/Stipend (Master’s Level)	\$14,654.25	\$4,884.75		<b>\$19,539</b>
Tuition	\$15,000	\$7,748.75*	\$8,246.25	<b>\$30,995</b>
Insurance	\$0	\$1,501		<b>\$1,501</b>
<b>Total:</b>	<b>\$29,654.25</b>	<b>\$14,134.50</b>	<b>\$8,246.25</b>	<b>\$52,035</b>

\*Max tuition allowed on 25% RA appointment: \$7,748.75.

**Scenario 4. Tuition-only support:** fellowship only provides MIT’s annual tuition.

- Graduate student receives an external fellowship award for the 2024-2025 academic year that provides 100% of their annual MIT tuition and no stipend support. Medical insurance is not covered by the fellowship. Per MIT’s graduate funding policies, the student’s research supervisor can provide a 100% RA appointment to cover the student’s salary. No tuition support is needed from the research supervisor. The 100% RA appointment can be funded with a sponsored research account or via discretionary funds.

Fall 2024 Support (09/01/24 – 1/15/25)	External Fellowship	RA supplement from research supervisor	Total
Salary/Stipend (Master’s Level)	\$0	\$19,539	<b>\$19,539</b>
Tuition	\$30,995	\$0	<b>\$30,995</b>
Insurance	\$0	\$1,501	<b>\$1,501</b>
<b>Total:</b>	<b>\$30,995</b>	<b>\$21,040</b>	<b>\$52,035</b>

**Scenario 5. No RA supplementation allowed:** fellowship does not cover the student’s full funding for the term (EECS external fellowship stipend rate, MIT annual tuition, and medical insurance) and its policies prohibit supplementation with an RA appointment.

- Graduate student receives an external fellowship award for the 2024-2025 academic year that provides \$5,000 in stipend support and \$5,000 in tuition support. Medical insurance is not covered by the fellowship. Under MIT’s graduate funding policies, the student’s research supervisor can provide approximately 75% RA appointment to cover the shortfalls in salary/stipend and up to 75% in tuition support.
- HOWEVER, the organization that awarded the student their fellowship prohibits students from receiving supplementation through a RA assignment. Therefore, the student must receive supplementation using discretionary funds or gift accounts or sponsored research accounts that allow salary/stipend, tuition and student medical insurance as expenses. The fiscal officer who manages the account(s) must review the contract agreement for allowable expenses.

Fall 2024 Support (09/01/24 – 1/15/25)	External Fellowship	Tuition + Insurance Supplement	Total
Salary/Stipend (Master’s Level)	\$5,000	\$14,539	<b>\$19,539</b>
Tuition	\$5,000	\$25,995	<b>\$30,995</b>
Insurance	\$0	\$1,501	<b>\$1,501</b>
<b>Total:</b>	<b>\$10,000</b>	<b>\$42,035</b>	<b>\$52,035</b>

Please note that these figures may not reflect any named external fellowship awards. Carefully examine all fellowship award documentation for fellowship rates (stipend, tuition, medical insurance, other allowable expenses), award duration, use policies, and award (or payment) procedures.

Finally, because of the terms of the fellowship award and the guidelines around MIT’s policies for graduate student funding, students may decide to decline acceptance of the external fellowship. Students may want to consult with the fellowship administrator to see how they may be able to convey their selection as a fellowship recipient, even though the student declined the monetary compensation (if the student may choose to add the award to their CV).