

## How NSF GRFP Stipends are Paid at Mizzou

**NOTE:** With this fellowship program you **apply directly to the National Science Foundation**, not through MU. If someone in your degree program asks you about “PeopleSoft” or “Sponsored Programs,” please tell them that GRFP applicants are *not* entered into the grants module until they are officially offered and formally accept a Fellowship.

### **Q1: I have been offered a GRFP award and plan to accept. What do I need to do next?**

A: First, read the NSF [guide for fellows](#) to learn about your reporting obligations and fiscal matters. You must be officially admitted to a graduate degree program in the US to accept an award.

Once you officially accept the Fellowship, **notify your graduate institution** and submit a copy of your award letter. If you intend to stay at Mizzou, contact the Office of Graduate Studies’ Business Manager, Ruth Erwin, as soon as possible in the spring. If you elect to attend a different institution, the fellowship travels with you. Notify the GRFP Coordinating Official for that institution: See [FastLane GRFP page](#).

### **Q2: Does the NSF notify MU that I received the GRFP award?**

A: No. The NSF does *not* notify institutions because the award is offered to students, not institutions. Therefore, to receive your stipend payments, it is *critical* that you notify your graduate institution as soon as possible.

### **Q3: When does a student’s stipend payments begin?**

A: This depends on when the student proceeds with his/her research plan. Under normal circumstances, the NSF expects fellows to commence studies by summer or fall after accepting the award. Since NSF does not actually transfer funds until later in the fall, MU establishes a temporary student account so that stipend payments are not delayed.

### **Q4: Who sets up the stipend account @Mizzou?**

A: The Office of Graduate Studies’ Business Manager initializes an account. Your paperwork is processed internally, with the Office of Sponsored Programs Administration verifying the award and completing PeopleSoft processing. Someone will contact you to complete required forms. OSPA then passes your information along to Financial Aid, where your financial aid account is established to distribute the funds.

### **Q5: Are taxes withheld?**

A: No. However, fellowships *are* taxable income and taxes are payable by the student to the IRS.

### **Q6: What is the “Cost of Education Allowance,” and who receives these funds?**

A: The Cost of Education Allowance is awarded to the institution, not the student. At Mizzou, the Office of Graduate Studies uses the discretionary allowance to pay the fellow’s tuition, educational fees and health insurance. **No funds from the Cost of Education Allowance are available to Fellows.** Fellows must use their \$30,000 GRFP stipend (or other personal funds) to pay for their cost of living expenses, books, computers, research supplies and miscellaneous fees. No exceptions.

### **Q7: Does Mizzou receive indirect costs?**

A: No. The Office of Graduate Studies does not charge a handling fee or other indirect costs. The GRFP stipend and the Cost of Education Allowance are *not* subject to indirect costs or RIF.

### **Q8: How--and when--does NSF transfer the funds?**

A: NSF typically transfers funds in the first quarter of the new federal fiscal year. The funds are sent to the *Curators of the University of Missouri*. Mizzou acts as payee and distributes the funds in monthly installments to Fellows.

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