

Graduate Student Placement Policy

Graduate students are critical tangible assets of our research culture, and they are also a valuable component of our teaching mission. As part of their PhD training, the Department of Biology requires that students be teaching assistants for a minimum of two semesters, consistent with practices at peer institutions.

The Department of Biology will continue to direct incoming Biology and Microbiology PhD graduate students to join laboratories that have funding (or reasonable prospects for imminent funding) sufficient to pay tuition, fees, stipends and research supplies and that are led by faculty members who have attended student mentoring workshops and/or have a consistent record of successful graduate student mentoring. Stipend, tuition, and fees for a PhD student become the responsibility of the research advisor after a student joins a laboratory. The Department of Biology will ordinarily support students in these laboratories with teaching assistantships during fall and spring semesters, contingent on the availability of TA positions and good progress by the student towards graduation. Research advisors should mentor student applications for external and University-wide fellowship support where feasible.

If a student does not find a position in a laboratory of a faculty member who can provide full graduate support, or if the student comes in with university-approved support for stipend, tuition and fees, the student may join the laboratory of any Biology Department faculty member, provided there are sufficient funds to support the completion of the student's research, and the faculty member has attended student mentoring workshops and/or has a consistent record of successful student mentoring. Although the Department of Biology is not obligated to support students who join labs that cannot provide full support, the department may be able to help support students in these laboratories with teaching assistantships beyond the two required semesters during their first five years of study, contingent on the availability of TA positions and good progress by the student towards graduation.