

Protocol 1005 Funding Support
Protocol Number: 1005
Effective Date: 10/19/2022
Revised Date:

Protocol

Because The Graduate School of the Stowers Institute for Medical Research is committed to giving each predoctoral researcher the best research experience in an unrivaled research environment, the Graduate School fully funds each predoctoral researcher and does not charge tuition for the graduate program. In addition, the Graduate School purchases a laptop and necessary textbooks for each predoctoral researcher, and covers all costs of instruction and research. The Graduate School guarantees the funding and benefits through the duration of the program for each predoctoral researcher, as long as they remain in good standing.

The amount of the funding support is reviewed annually in the fall prior to the budget process to ensure the funding support amount remains competitive. The Associate Dean for Administration reviews data from benchmark institutions and compares funding support amounts, conference allowance amounts, materials supplied, and benefits provided. Results of the annual comparison are used to determine if the Graduate School's funding support amount should be increased.

The funding support amount is updated each year on the Graduate School website benefits section. Any change to the funding support amount is communicated in advance to predoctoral researchers and faculty.

The Graduate School pays the full funding support amount and benefits for the first two years of a predoctoral researcher's program. The thesis lab's budget pays the full funding support amount and benefits starting year three through the completion of the program.

Each of the Graduate School's predoctoral researchers is eligible for a conference allowance each calendar year. Detailed information can be found in the conference allowance protocol (1001). In addition, predoctoral researchers are eligible for a personal travel allowance each calendar year. Detailed information can be found in the personal travel allowance protocol (1002).

Predoctoral researchers who have achieved candidacy status receive a \$2000 increase in annual funding support effective January 1, 2023. Ph.D. Candidates are deemed to have acquired the necessary advanced knowledge of the subject by completing the course requirements, developed the needed technical skills for work in the subject, and demonstrated the ability to do the research necessary to begin work on a thesis. A predoctoral researcher must complete all module courses and laboratory rotation courses, complete the written thesis proposal that is approved by the Supervisory Committee, and complete the Qualifying Assessment in order to use the Ph.D. Candidate description and receive the increase in funding support.

Predoctoral researchers who are awarded a competitive external fellowship receive a “recognition award” (funding support increase) from the thesis lab’s budget of \$2000 each year for the duration of the award (plus \$2000 professional development allowance each year).