



Graduate Student Funding Update

*A Presentation for the Council of Principal Investigators
June 2024*

Agenda



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- Doctoral Research Excellence Assistantship
 - GA Stipend Analysis
 - GREAT Program
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Doctoral Research Excellence Assistantship

Doctoral Research Excellence Assistantship



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Purpose

- Funded by the Chancellor's office to provide to A&M additional fully funded doctoral assistantships at stipend levels sufficient to be competitive with peer universities, and
- Enhance A&M's research capacity and productivity

Criteria/Eligibility

- Open to all academic disciplines
- Primary focus is to attract new doctoral students, but in some cases a continuing student (no more than 2 years in doctoral studies) may be the most appropriate candidate
- Funding should not supplant existing funding, but should be used to expand the number of doctoral students funded.
- Award will be forfeited if student is not admitted into a doctoral program or is released from a program.

Stipend/Benefits

- Stipend
 - \$40,000 annual stipend 3-year commitment to the recipient from System funds, contingent on student remaining in good standing and progressing toward completion.
 - Additional years beyond the 3-year commitment may be granted at the discretion of the department/program/lab; additional years awarded must be funded from sources other than this program.
 - Funding is awarded to the student and follows the student to the program in which the student is enrolled.
- Benefits
 - All tuition and fees for required courses.
 - Graduate student Insurance (current rate is \$252 per month for graduate plan; \$3,024 per year)

Number of Awards

- Four (4) new awards each year with three (3) year commitments
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FY25 Selection



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- Timeline
 - ✓ March 17, 2024: Notified by Chancellor's office of funding availability and purpose
 - ✓ March 29, 2024: Nomination due to the Grad School (each college submitting 1-2 nominations)
 - ✓ April 5, 2024: Award notification to nominee and department/college
- Final awardees
 - Nutrition, Landscape and Urban Planning, Marine Biology, Psychological and Brain Sciences
- Welcome feedback for FY26 selection process



Graduate Assistant Stipend Analysis

Background of the Analysis



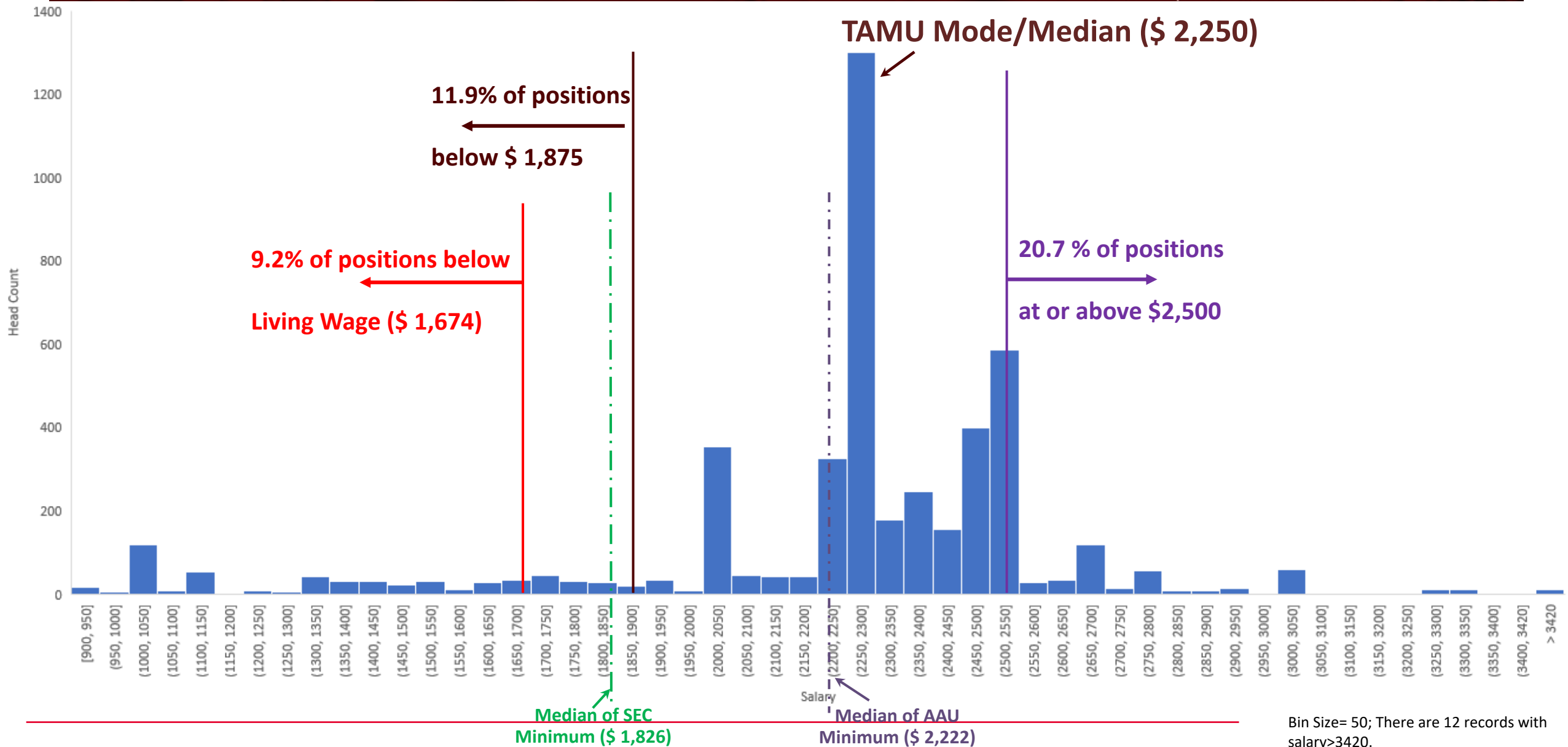
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- ❑ Growing concerns from graduate student organizations
 - ❑ Recommendation from academic program reviews
 - ❑ Nov. 2023 payroll GA salary snapshot
 - ❑ Living wage ([MIT living wage calculation](#))
 - ❑ Peer data comparison: public AAU (n=40) & SEC (n=14)
 - Minimum monthly stipend rate
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GA Salary Distribution at TAMU Nov. 2023



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Bin Size= 50; There are 12 records with salary>3420.

Seeking Feedback



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- What is a reasonable minimum rate? (\$1,674; \$1,875; \$2,000)
- Should we have different minimum for master's and doctoral students?
- Should there be a multi-year incremental plan?

A university minimum rate will be implemented campus-wide Fall 2025



GREAT Program

GREAT Support for NSF-GRFP and NIH-T32



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	NSF-GRFP	GREAT Support	NIH T32	GREAT Support
#/126 (FY23)	43 (34%)		55 (44%)	
Stipend rate	\$37,000	top-off for 2 reserve years	\$28,224	top-off for up to 5 years
Tuition/Fee	\$16,000		60%	40% for 1 year
PD		\$1,500 for up to 5 years		\$1,500 for up to 5 years

GREAT Program (FY23)



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- # of unique fellowship/grants: 16
 - Continuing to build the list of eligible programs
 - An increase in the # of awards in FY24
 - Annual allocation
 - ~ \$1million (\$995,600 + \$50,000 travel)
 - If raising to \$39,000, \$420k additional funding needed (based on current rate)
 - If raising to \$40,000, \$440k additional funding needed
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Contact great@tamu.edu regarding

1. Eligibility for an external fellowship/grant not listed;
2. During the proposal development process for grants not yet awarded;
3. Questions about the program and request forms.

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