

Philosophy MA Funding in the US and Canada

(Last updated 12/12/2016; please send additions, corrections, or suggestions to Geoff Pynn: gpynn@niu.edu)

United States

Many US terminal MA programs in philosophy offer substantial financial aid in the form of assistantships, fellowships, and tuition remission. I have compiled the most relevant information about funding from program websites, as well as email correspondence with departments. I have not included information about non-departmental financial aid (e.g. university scholarships or tuition assistance programs).

Program	Funding information
Brandeis University	"Most students qualify for some financial aid. In addition, the department offers several teaching assistantships to incoming candidates, thus helping defray the cost of graduate study in philosophy." (website)
Cal State – Long Beach	"The Department typically employs 3-6 Graduate Assistants each semester. Students should ordinarily expect appointment in their second year of graduate studies. For AY2009-10, GAs were paid approximately \$2,745-\$3,140 per semester for 10 hours/week." (website)
Cal State – Los Angeles	"The Department has several graduate assistantships for which graduate students in good standing are eligible." (website)
Carnegie Mellon University	"The Philosophy Department offers qualified M.A. students up to a 50% tuition fellowship, added to whatever outside fellowships or other tuition awards the student has gained on her or his own. In addition, qualified MA students have the opportunity to serve as teaching assistants or graders for undergraduate courses, for a stipend rate set annually by the department. In the 2007-2008 academic year, by TAing or grading one course per term for each of two terms, an M.A. student earns \$8,000 in stipend. In addition, the department provides approximately \$1,100 to cover the cost of a Carnegie Mellon health insurance policy." (website)
Colorado State University	"Currently, the department is able to offer between six and seven two-year Graduate Teaching Assistantship packages to each incoming class. Graduate Teaching Assistants receive a full tuition waiver, an annual stipend, and a health insurance allowance for the academic year. For 2014-15, the annual stipend was \$13,410 and the health insurance allowance was \$2,330." (Via email from Beth Tropman, Colorado State Philosophy DGS.)
Florida State University	"In recent years, we have offered teaching assistantships or fellowships to all admitted students, including those admitted for the terminal MA, with the package including a tuition waiver, health insurance, and a stipend. The stipend amount for MA students is the same as that for Ph.D. students." (Via email from Randolph Clarke, FSU Philosophy DGS.)
Georgia State University	"The Department offers a funding package to every graduate student it admits, and every funding package includes subsidized health insurance and a full waiver of tuition. ... Students must still pay fees, about \$1,000/semester. ... Every year, the Department offers fellowships and scholarships in each of its three areas of strength: Neurophilosophy, Legal and Political Philosophy, and Kant and post-Kantian German philosophy. The Brains & Behavior Fellows receive an annual stipend of \$15,000, and the Jean Beer Blumenfeld Scholar in Legal and Political Philosophy, and the Scholar in Kant and post-Kantian German philosophy each receive an annual stipend of \$15,000. ... We offer many more assistantships, in addition to our specialized area fellowships and scholarships. Assistants typically receive a stipend of \$5,000 to \$10,000 per year." (website)
George Mason University	"MA students at George Mason have several options available for funding. The Institute for Philosophy and Public Policy hires an editorial assistant each year, which pays around \$10,000, and the Department hires some grad students as graders in undergraduate courses. Some out-of-state students are eligible for tuition discounts, and students from Virginia are eligible for a generous (\$5000) scholarship from the Alexandria Scottish Rite Masons, for which the Department nominates recipients." (Via email from Ted Kinnaman, George Mason

	Philosophy Chair)
George Washington University	"Every application received before February 1 will be considered for a tuition award that ranges from smaller amounts to approximately 60-70% of the tuition. The department also has some need for graduate assistants, who receive a per semester salary and provide limited grading/instructional support for undergraduate philosophy classes. For most classes, the salary is \$3250 per term. Priority is given to applicants with background in philosophy and a strong undergraduate GPA.." (Via email from Laura Papish, George Washington Philosophy DGS)
IUPUI	"A limited number of graduate assistantships are available for new or returning students each academic year. [...] Each assistantship includes a \$9,000 stipend, health and dental insurance, and a waiver of most tuition fees." (website)
Kent State University	"A limited number of graduate assistantships (with competitive stipends) and tuition/fee waivers are available for graduate students. In the past, most students have received financial aid ... During 2017-18, the total financial aid award per student is approximately \$24,500, which will include a \$11,500 stipend, a full tuition waiver worth \$11,000, a health insurance subsidy (for students who do not otherwise have coverage), and workers compensation. The tuition waiver is sufficient to cover up to 12 credit hours per semester. Given the low cost of living in Kent, this award is highly competitive: according to Salary.com, for example, our stipend would be the equivalent of a stipend over \$20,000 in Boston." (website)
Loyola Marymount University	"The Department awards one Graduate Assistantship each year. An assistantship is awarded for a two-year period. In addition, Graduate Grants, ranging from one-quarter to one-half tuition, are awarded by the Department. Currently, every student enrolled in the program is receiving significant financial assistance." (website)
Miami University (Ohio)	"A limited number of graduate assistantships are available on a competitive basis. These carry a work expectation of approximately 15-20 hours per week assisting a faculty member. In 2014-2015 assistantships are \$11,660 plus remission of tuition costs. In addition, there is an opportunity to receive a summer scholarship for summer study after one has been a graduate assistant during the regular academic year; this scholarship (\$1800 in 2014) involves no work duties, but students who wish to receive it must meet the department's requirements for full-time summer study." (website)
Michigan State University	"Each year the Department sets aside a number of Graduate Assistantships for entering students. In the current academic year, graduate assistants received a total financial package of at least \$21,523 for a level 1, ½-time assistantship. This package includes a waiver of up to nine credit hours tuition each term, health insurance coverage, and for out-of-state students, waiver of out-of-state tuition." (website)
Northern Illinois University	"The department is typically able to award six graduate teaching assistantships, which include a waiver of institutional tuition costs and include a yearly stipend of approximately \$11,825, to each incoming class." (website)
Ohio University	"Ohio University's M.A. program in philosophy typically offers four Teaching Assistantships to each incoming class. The Assistantships include a \$10,880 stipend and a full tuition waiver. The full tuition waiver does not cover various additional fees totaling roughly \$760 per semester. It also does not cover the health insurance premium of \$818 per semester. Students who have their own health insurance coverage may apply for a waiver from the latter fee. The figures quoted herein are based on the rates for the 2015-2016 academic year." (via James Petrik, Ohio University Philosophy Grad Chair)
Oklahoma State University	"Each year, students receive a \$12,811.50 stipend for the 9 month academic year. Included is a full tuition waiver as well as single-person health insurance that is paid for." (via Brian Kim)
University of Oklahoma	"We are now offering up to two assistantships per admissions year to MA students. These assistantships currently carry a stipend of approximately \$16,000, health insurance, and a tuition waiver." (website)
San Francisco State University	"For in-state residents State University Grants cover almost all of tuition. Out-of-state applicants can apply for the Provost Scholar Award, which reduces tuition to the (very low) in-

	state level. All students may apply for additional funding in the form of Philosophy Graduate Student Tuition Scholarships, Sally Casanova Pre-Doctoral Scholarships, positions as Teaching Assistants or Teaching Associates, as well as other university-, system-, and state-wide awards." (via email from David Landy, SFSU Philosophy Graduate Coordinator)
Southern Illinois University – Carbondale	"The number of assistantships available in any one year is a function of the enrollment in the courses in which assistants work and the financial position of the University divisions which support the program. M.A. candidates are usually offered only quarter-time appointments (25% assignment averaging 10 hours per week) ... A tuition waiver is included with either half- or quarter-time appointments. However, the student must pay the "fees" portion of the "tuition & fees" semester expense." (website)
Texas A&M	"The Philosophy Department will appoint incoming graduate students as Graduate Assistants, with reappointment subject to satisfactory progress. New teaching assistants in our master's program last year received a nine-month salary of \$10,500.00 ... Graduate Assistants receive in-state status for tuition and the university will cover your full-time tuition up to 9 semester credit hours, not including fees." (website)
Texas State University	"We currently fund 14 Graduate Instructional Assistantships and 1 Graduate Research Assistantship. Funding starts at \$12,000 for 9 months, renewable for a second year. Out-of-state and International graduate students who receive an assistantship qualify for in-state tuition." (Via email from Craig Hanks, Texas State Philosophy Department Chair.)
Texas Tech	"The philosophy department typically awards 9 or 10 Teaching Assistantships. Stipends are commensurate with duties. They range from \$12,000 to \$13,000. ... Teaching Assistantships also include fee waivers that considerably reduce the cost of registration." (website)
Tufts University	"No tuition is paid during the student's second year of study ... We provide partial tuition remissions to most of our successful applicants who demonstrate financial need. The average tuition remission is about 60% of the total tuition cost ... After their first semester in the program, students in good academic standing can apply for a Teaching Assistantship. These are granted on a course-by-course basis and currently pay slightly more than \$4,200 per course (or, when a course breaks into discussion sections, per section, though students rarely are assigned more than one section per semester)." (website)
University of Arkansas	"Department assistantships are available. For 2013-2014 the stipend of a half-time assistant (this is the normal assistantship) was \$10,000. Tuition (resident or nonresident) is waived for half-time assistants. Graduate assistants usually teach Logic or Introduction to Philosophy." (website)
University of Florida	"The Philosophy Department at University of Florida currently admits 4 to 5 new MA students each year with funding. Funding is by means of Teaching Assistantships that provide an annual stipend of \$13,750 and a tuition waiver covering full time enrollment (3 classes) enabling the completion of the MA in two years. (Students are responsible for some fees other than tuition.) The duties assigned by a Teaching Assistantship normally include responsibility for 3 weekly discussion sections of about 20 students each under the supervision of the main instructor, who determines specific responsibilities regarding office hours and grading." (Via email from Robert D'Amico, Florida Philosophy Graduate Coordinator.)
University of Houston	"Teaching assistantships are usually available for qualified applicants ... The teaching assistant award is approximately \$12,000 for nine months service, and tuition is remitted, but not any fees. The award also includes an additional \$1350 for health insurance coverage." (website)
University of Georgia	"Graduate Assistantships (normally with teaching duties) are available on a competitive basis to both M.A. and Ph.D. students and carry academic year stipends ranging from \$13,000 to \$16,000. These assistantships include waivers of in-state and out-of-state tuition. The Department is able to award 14-18 assistantships each academic year with 3-6 of these typically going to incoming graduate students." (website)
University of Kansas	"The University of Kansas funds students admitted to its MA program, and we make no distinction between Ph.D. and MA students when it comes to funding decisions." (via Dale Dorsey, Kansas Philosophy Professor)

University of Memphis	"Several assistantships are available for students in the MA program. Assistantships are renewed for the second year for assistants making satisfactory progress in the two year MA program." (website)
University of Missouri – St. Louis	"The Department awards a limited number of teaching assistantships per year, and occasionally, faculty who have received grants hire students as their graduate research assistants. These TAs and RAs are competitive. Normally, an assistantship brings with it a full tuition remission and a modest salary. Students who assist in four courses per year now earn \$10,000 per year, with opportunities to earn additional money during the summer and the winter intersession." (website)
University of Mississippi	"Each year our department awards three, two-year Teaching Assistantships to incoming graduate students. These feature a 100% tuition waiver and an annual stipend. Two of the incoming TA's receive an annual stipend of \$10,000. One of the incoming TA's is awarded a Graduate Honors fellowship and receives a \$12,000 stipend." (Via email from Steven Skultety, Mississippi's Philosophy Chair.)
University of Montana	"The Department awards a limited number of teaching assistantships to qualified students focusing on environmental philosophy, except in rare instances. These carry a stipend of about \$9,000 and a tuition waiver." (website)
University of North Florida	"We typically can offer two teaching assistantships (packages that include a stipend of approximately \$12,000 and a tuition waiver that covers the majority of tuition but not fees) as well as other small forms of support (research assistantships, distance learning coaches, and graders), which enable out-of-state students to qualify for in-state tuition." (via email from Erinn Gilson, Coordinator of MA in Practical Philosophy and Applied Ethics, UNF)
University of Texas – El Paso	"We currently fund students both as Teaching Assistants and as Graduate Assistants and have several such students receiving funding." (via email from Jules Simon, UTEP Philosophy DGS)
University of Texas – San Antonio	"All Philosophy MA students in good standing can compete for Research and Teaching Assistantships." (website)
University of Toledo	"Almost all full-time students in the program are given a Teaching Assistantship (funded at competitive levels) and a full tuition fellowship." (website)
University of Wisconsin – Milwaukee	"We usually admit about 9 students with TA positions each year and have a total of about 18 such positions. We also apply for, and usually get, Chancellor's Awards for each of our funded entering students. This is a one time award of around \$1000-\$1200 for students from the United States and about \$2000 for international students. This is meant to help offset the costs of their initial move to Milwaukee. All of our TA positions receive the salaries of \$7,813 for the first year and \$7,901 for the second year and, in addition, tuition waivers and health insurance." (via Joshua Spencer, UWM Philosophy Graduate Advisor)
University of Wyoming	"Graduate Assistantships are available to qualified students. ... The stipends, for a full-time appointment, during the academic year 2014-2015 are \$11,700.00. Tuition waivers are usually given along with and in addition to the stipend." (website)
Virginia Tech	"The Department is able to award between four and five graduate teaching assistantships each year. These provide in- and out-of-state tuition remission (except for fees), and a stipend of about \$11,500 per year." (website)
Western Michigan University	"Most of our incoming students receive a full-time graduate assistantship. The assistantship provides a 9 credit-hour tuition waiver per term, a 3 credit hour waiver for summer terms, and a salary. The tuition waiver is more than sufficient to complete the 30 credit-hour program within two years. During the 2014-15 year the regular academic-year assistantship salary is \$11,712. We also offer three entrance scholarships of \$1000 each, two based solely on academic merit and the third with preference for applicants from under-represented groups. There are additional sources of funds as well, including a fund for graduate travel for conferences, a \$1000 essay prize, and others." (Via email from Mark Alspector-Kelly, WMU Philosophy Department Chair.)

Canada

Canadian universities typically fund students in terminal MA programs, though unlike their US counterparts, Canadian fellowships and assistantships do not usually include tuition remission (of the programs listed here, only Toronto explicitly claims to remit tuition). Although many do not, some Canadian programs may give preference to domestic applicants in their MA admissions and funding decisions. For example, Toronto's web site states:

"[O]ur current structure for financial support makes it easier for us to allocate MA program places to Canadian citizens and permanent residents. We strongly encourage international applicants to apply to the PhD program rather than the MA."

Program	Funding description
Carleton University	"Carleton University offers financial assistance in the form of teaching assistantships and scholarships to most full-time students. Teaching assistants act as markers, individual tutors or discussion group leaders for ten hours per week during term. Teaching assistants at Carleton are unionized and rates of pay and conditions of employment are determined by collective agreement. Financial support for new students is usually about \$12,000 for twelve months, including summer term, and has gone as high as \$15,000 for exceptional students." (website)
Dalhousie University	"Full-time MA students not receiving other funding normally receive a fellowship/teaching assistantship." (website)
McMaster University	"We do not normally admit applicants into the program unless we can offer them a full Teaching Assistantship for their first year. ... For the year 2012/13 the stipend for a full year T.A. for an in-program student is \$10,480.00. The School of Graduate Studies will almost always accept the Department's recommendation to offer a T.A. for a further year (or four terms in total). In order to hold a T.A., students must be registered full-time and have paid full-time fees." (website)
Queen's University	"Contingent on academic qualifications, MA and PhD candidates may be eligible for funding in the form of grants and assistantships. The department makes every effort to secure maximum levels of assistance for as many candidates as possible." (website)
Ryerson University	"Our goal is to provide every student with substantial and highly competitive financial support. ... There are several different sources of funding. First, we may offer you paid work as a Grading or Teaching Assistant. ... The normal contract is for 130 hours of work per semester (not including the summer, when there is no such work). The rate of pay changes every year, but is around 40\$/hour. In total, this would amount to around \$10,000. Second, you may be offered an internal Ryerson scholarship or award. The Ryerson Graduate Scholarships are valued at about \$7,000 and are awarded to excellent students by the Dean of Graduate Studies. Ryerson Graduate Awards range from \$500 to \$6000 and are awarded by the department. ... Third, you may be offered a paid Research Assistant position, helping one of our faculty members with his or her research project." (website)
Simon Fraser University	"SFU commits to fully funding each of its accepted MA students for the length of the program. This is done through a combination of fellowships, teaching assistantships, and research assistantships. Full funding means tuition plus a living stipend. The stipend is sufficient to live on in the greater Vancouver area without going into debt. We aim to use fellowship support to help students at the very beginning of their MA program, to find their feet; and we aim to use it for students writing their professional paper, the capstone for the MA and the paper that usually serves as the writing sample for PhD applications. This applies to students from any country, not merely Canadian students. SFU also offers travel funding for MA students to travel to conferences, workshops, and other related professional opportunities." (via email from Holly Anderson, SFU Philosophy)
University of	"Although M.A. students may be admitted without funding, many do receive funding,

Alberta	especially after the first term. All our recently admitted students have received some funding, and currently, most graduate students are fully funded. Funding comes in several forms, most commonly as teaching or research assistantships. For 2012-2013, the minimum stipend for an assistantship at the M.A. level is \$22,245" (website)
University of British Columbia	"MA students are generally offered two years of fellowship funding in the amount of \$11,000 per year, plus a 1.0 teaching assistantship. A typical MA student can expect approximately \$23,000 per year in TA-ship and fellowship funding. Additional support may be offered through a number of sources, which may include research assistant positions with faculty in the department, and students are expected to apply for awards during their studies here." (website)
University of Calgary	"Students admitted to the MA program receive funding for the expected duration of the program, which is four semesters and one summer. In exceptional circumstances, a student may be admitted without a funding guarantee (e.g., if they have external sources of funding). The average MA funding package this year is \$22,000, and almost all are in the range of \$19,000-\$23,000. Funding for international students takes into account higher tuition fees. Funding packages combine teaching assistantships, research assistantships, and scholarship funding." (via email from Richard Zach)
University of Saskatchewan	"Many students are funded by means of Graduate Teaching Fellowships. The Department of Philosophy will automatically consider suitably qualified candidate for this award. [...] Their current value is \$16,900 (which includes a summer stipend of \$4,000). [...] Students pursuing the course-based MA- option are not eligible for this award." (website; also contains detailed descriptions of university scholarships and SSHRC funding for MA students)
University of Toronto	"Every graduate student we admit is guaranteed financial support for the prescribed duration of the program. This support fully covers tuition, fees and health insurance, and also includes funds for living expenses. Full funding is extended to all admitted students, whether domestic or international. Students are also eligible for up to \$1400 per year in travel funding to present their research at conferences and workshops. ... MA students are guaranteed funding for the one-year duration of their program. ... The minimum guaranteed level of funding is presently equal to the full cost of tuition with all incidental and health care fees, plus at least \$15,000, but most graduate students now receive more than the minimum. Our funding typically consists of (i) a tuition grant, (ii) a stipend, and (iii) a Teaching Assistantship. Some students may also receive Research Fellowships." (website)
University of Victoria	"All students accepted to the graduate program are considered for University of Victoria Graduate Fellowships and Awards. The deadline for consideration for internal funding is February 1. ... Students in the department are also eligible for employment as teaching assistants or research assistants." (website)
University of Western Ontario	"Western Ontario has two fully funded MA programs. One in philosophy and one two year program in Ancient Philosophy." (Via email from Henrik Lagerlund, UWO Philosophy Department Chair)
University of Windsor	"Many students receive Graduate Teaching Assistantships guaranteed for a minimum of 3 semesters (not including summer) for \$14,733.60. (Maximum 4 semesters for \$19,644)." (website)
Wilfrid Laurier University	"Most students will receive funding in the form of two Teaching Assistantships and, if eligible, an internal scholarship." (website)
York University	"All MA students receive funding for a year (three semesters), at the end of which they are expected to have completed their degree. In 2014-15, funding ranged from \$18,000 to \$24,000, for which students are expected to work only 135 hours over the course of two semesters as research assistants. Domestic tuition fees are about \$5,500 a year." (Via email from Claudine Verheggen, York Philosophy Graduate Program Director.)