Job Aid for Paying Students

Office of Research Administration (ORA)

November 2018
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Job Aid for Paying Students

Mines has a variety of ways that students can be paid but the most appropriate method depends upon the type of work performed and source of funding used. Our goal is to have students paid in a timely fashion by making it easy for administrators to determine the appropriate type of pay and corresponding form.

Mines has four (4) types of student funding arrangements:

1. Graduate Assistantships – TA, RA, Hourly
2. Graduate Fellowships
3. Participant Support (i.e. REU’s, REV’s, RET’s and other participant programs)
4. Hourly Undergraduate

1. **Graduate Assistantships**: Regular graduate students (i.e., those that are fully admitted into a graduate degree program at Mines) are eligible for Graduate Assistant and Graduate Hourly Appointments.
   - **Graduate Assistant – Teaching Assistantships (TA’s)** are awarded to students who assist in the education of other students, either undergraduate or graduate, by teaching, tutoring, instructing or lecturing in laboratories or recitations under the direction of a faculty member. TA’s are to be paid a semimonthly salary through each semester and can have tuition reimbursed.
     - Form: [https://www.mines.edu/graduate-studies/graduate-contracts/](https://www.mines.edu/graduate-studies/graduate-contracts/)
   - **Graduate Assistant – Research Assistantships (RA’s)** are supervised by individual faculty members to perform research that is associated with a student’s area of study. The work is technical in nature, requires significant education and experience, is directly related toward meeting the research requirements of a student’s thesis-based degree program, but may also include additional assignments that are peripheral toward meeting degree requirements (e.g., facility management, report preparation, laboratory assistance, etc.). RA’s are to be paid a semimonthly salary through each semester and can have tuition reimbursed.
     - Form: [https://www.mines.edu/graduate-studies/graduate-contracts/](https://www.mines.edu/graduate-studies/graduate-contracts/)
   - **Graduate Hourly Appointments** are made to students who work part-time on campus to provide assistance in areas that are unrelated to their academic program and that do not involve teaching or research duties of the nature expected of Graduate Research and Graduate Teaching Assistants. Graduate hourly appointments are to be paid on an hourly basis with no benefit of tuition reimbursement.
     - Form: [https://www.mines.edu/graduate-studies/graduate-contracts/](https://www.mines.edu/graduate-studies/graduate-contracts/)

2. **Graduate Fellowship Appointments** are made to students who have been accepted as a “Fellow” into a program whose selection is based upon merit, with no expectation of services to Mines being rendered. Fellowship appointments are made as a lump sum payment to the student’s Mines account and are not to be paid through payroll. Tuition reimbursement, if
allowed as part of the fellowship, can be reimbursed on the same form as the stipend. This type of payment can impact a student’s financial aid package.

- Form: https://www.mines.edu/graduate-studies/graduate-contracts/

For more information regarding Graduate Student appointments, please see the Graduate Studies webpage.

3. **Participant Support** (sometimes referred to under these titles: Research Experiences for Undergrads (REU), Research Experiences for Teachers (RET) and Research Experience for Veterans (REV) – The individual participates in a formal program intended to support individuals receiving training or learning opportunity from a workshop, conference, seminar, symposium or other short-term instructional or information sharing activity funded by a sponsored award. The participant does not perform work or provide any service to the university in return for these support costs. The individual is not an employee of the school. Payment is made directly to the individual through Mines’ AP system. For tax reporting purposes these individuals are considered Independent Contractors and are required to provide IRS Form W-9, https://www.mines.edu/controllers-office/forms2/ (payments will be reported as income when required by IRS on IRS Form 1099). Additional forms may be required if the individual needs Blaster Card access to on campus labs and buildings.

- Form: https://www.mines.edu/controllers-office/forms2/

4. **Hourly Undergraduate** payments are made to enrolled students who are working on campus and providing a service for pay. Undergraduates working as students in any capacity, whether or not they qualify for work-study aid, will be paid as an employee of Mines and receive semimonthly payments directly into their bank account. Tuition remission is not a benefit of this appointment. The “Mines Undergraduate Research Program” participants qualify for Hourly Undergraduate pay.

- Form: https://www.mines.edu/human-resources/forms/

5. For appointments on research funds, additional guidance is on the next page - Checklist for Completing HR Contracts on Research Funds.
Checklist for Completing HR Contracts on Research Funds

☐ - Hourly Contracts (Research and Undergraduate)
ORA policy stipulates that all hourly employees must be paid the going federal minimum wage or more.

☐ - Single Fund or Multiple Funds
☐ - If the employee is to be paid from more than one source of funds determine the percentage of time for each assignment and enter it into the % of effort on the HR form.

☐ - If the employee is to be paid from more than one source of funds within one implementation period consecutively (vs congruently), then it is critical to include the start date for the second fund.
Ex: Consecutive
4xxxxx - September through October (9/1/17 – 10/31/17) @ 100% effort
4xxxxx - November through December (11/1/17 – 12/31/17) @ 100% effort

vs
Congruent
4xxxxx - September through December (9/1/17 – 12/31/17) @ 50%
4xxxxx - September through December (9/1/17 – 12/31/17) @ 50%

☐ - If the employee is a Graduate Research Assistant (student), tuition must follow effort and be proportional to the amount of effort on the research fund per Uniform Guidance requirements.

☐ - Available Balance
There has to be enough funds within the available balance to cover the HR contract. Determine the available balance of a fund using the All Funds Balance Report AFBR. (See Figure 3)

Tip: If the available balance is not adequate to cover the HR contract and the Principal Investigator (PI) anticipates more funding or time, it may be possible for ORA to arrange an At-Risk Approval. Contact your ORA Grant or Contract Administrator for At-Risk Approvals.

☐ - Period of Performance
The period of the student/faculty contract should be within the period of performance of the grant. Determine the period of performance using the AFBR. (See Figure 3)

☐ - Available Budget
Many grants have restrictions as to how research funds can be spent. It’s necessary to ensure that the fund(s) has adequate budget for Labor. The AFBR provides the labor budget for each fund. (See Figure 3)
- Additional information about anticipated funding and a copy of the award and budget may be found in Cayuse.
- Questions about the All Funds Balance Report, Cayuse, a grant period of performance, or budget may be directed to your ORA Grant Administrator.
Figure 1: RA HR Implementation Form

- Amounts must fall into the available balance.
- % of tuition must match % of Stipend.
- Must be within the period of performance

Figure 2: RF HR Implementation Form

- Must be within the period of performance
- Amounts must fall into the available balance
Figure 3: All Funds Balance Report (AFBR)

**Grant 4: Available Balance:** $1,247.15

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Account Pool</th>
<th>Budget</th>
<th>Expenses</th>
<th>Encumbrance</th>
<th>Available Balance*</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Labor Costs</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Academic Fac. Benefits</td>
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<td>($6,150.75)</td>
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<td>Operating Cost</td>
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<td>Capital Outlay</td>
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<td>($167.97)</td>
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<td>Subcontractor</td>
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<td>Supplies and Materials</td>
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<td>$0.00</td>
<td>($2,266.90)</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**Total Budget:** $2,068,122.89  **Available Balance:** $1,247.15

- Amounts must fall into the available balance
- Labor categories need budget and available balance
- Must be within the period of performance