

Tuition on Sponsored Awards

Overview:

All tuition charges on sponsored awards must be consistent with the funding agency's written policies, applicable laws and regulations, and Northeastern's [Policy on Tuition on Sponsored Awards](#); investigators should include on their proposal budgets tuition costs when allowable.

Proposal Budgets:

Effective for new and renewal proposals submitted on or after January 1, 2026, the tuition for PhD students that will be budgeted and charged to sponsored research awards is 50% of the academic year tuition, which for the 2025 - 2026 academic year is \$15,750. Include an inflation escalation factor of 5% for future AY in the proposal budget.

If total personnel costs are capped by the funding agency, tuition costs may be adjusted as applicable.

Uniform Guidance [§ 200.466](#) (Scholarships, student aid costs, and tuition) governs the allowability of tuition costs.

Please refer to specific funding opportunity announcements for allowability; funding agencies and non-federal sponsors may have stipulated conditions or limitations on the allowability of tuition costs on grants or contracts.

Federal Funding Agency	Guidance
National Institutes of Health	Limits allowable costs, see: https://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/notice-files/NOT-OD-25-105.html ;
National Science Foundation	Generally allowable; see specific FOA
Department of Defense	Generally allowable; see specific FOA
Department of Homeland Security	Generally allowable; see specific FOA
Department of Energy	Generally allowable; see specific FOA

Person Months: A PhD student's max allowable person months in calendar year = 6 person months (e.g., 20 hours/wk) during a 12 month budget period.

Tuition charges must be pro-rated when a student works less than full-time or across multiple awards.



Getting Help

Support: NU-RESHC@northeastern.edu

Grant Officer: <https://res.research.northeastern.edu/contact/>

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Northeastern University Tuition Rates tuition costs for future budget periods may include a 5% increase year over year. Tuition costs are excluded from the budget's modified total cost base (MTDC)

For help calculating student tuition and personnel costs please [contact your NU-RES grants officer.](#)

Proposal Preparation Examples:

Example #1: Agency Allows full Recovery – PhD Student

PhD Student at 100% (20 hours per week/12 mos) max allowable person months in calendar year = 6 person months.

Full FY25-26 Tuition = \$47,250; Total Requested Tuition = \$15,750 (50% of AY Tuition)

Example #1a – Ph.D. Student's support on sponsored programs is less than 100% (i.e., 20 hours a week during the calendar year) or spans multiple proposals/awards please prorate the amount requested.

Ph.D. student splits commitment 50/50 between 2 proposals. Total requested Grant A = \$7,875; Grant B \$7,875 or

PhD Student commits only 10 hours per week, i.e., 50% of their appointment, total requested = \$7,875

Example#1b – Ph.D. Student's support on sponsored programs less than 12 month budget period; prorate by months in the budget period. E.g. Budget period = 6 mos = Total requested \$7,875.

Example #1c – Ph.D. Students support spans academic years. Prorate w/escalation factor in the out years. 6 months in current AY = \$7,850K + 12 months in future AY = $7,875 * .05 = \$16,537$.

Example #2: Agency limits allowable tuition remission costs (e.g., NIH) – PhD Student

60% of actual tuition level, up to \$16K (current cap). NIH typically updates its guidance each year, see e.g., <https://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/notice-files/NOT-OD-25-105.html> and will adjust allowable costs upward if annual guidance increases these costs.



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QuickCard: Tuition on Sponsored Awards



Since 60% of \$47,250 = \$28,350 in AY25-26, NU's request of \$15,750 is below the cap; however budgets in future AY periods should include an escalation factor of 5% (e.g., \$16,537 AY26-27, \$17,364 FY27-28, etc.).

Budget Justification Other:

Tuition: For academic year 2025-2026, NU's PhD Student's 12-month tuition is \$47,250; please use a 5% annual inflator for future AY budgets.

Principal Investigator's Responsibilities: At the time of award acceptance or if a student is added to the award thereafter the Principal Investigator must confirm that consistent with UG [§ 200.466](#) that the student is conducting activities necessary to the award, compensation, inclusive of tuition remission, is reasonable for activities performed, and the student is enrolled in an advanced degree program at NU.

Salary Certification: Graduate students paid on awards must also have their pay certified by the PI pursuant to Uniform Guidance [§ 200.430](#).¹

FAQs can be found at: [FAQs | Research Enterprise Services \(NU-RES\)](#).

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¹ Tuition that reimbursed as part of a NRSA individual fellowship or institutional training award is considered part of their overall stipend and allowance and, therefore, trainees do not certify T&E.



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