



## GRADUATE SCHOOL FUNDING

In general, in the U.S., students doing a Ph.D. in a STEM field do not have to pay tuition. In fact, in almost all cases, Ph.D. students receive a financial package that covers tuition and provides a stipend. This differs from Master's programs where students typically pay tuition and do not receive a stipend.

Caltech's [Graduate Studies Office](#) website has a plethora of important information on how funding works at Caltech. Here are the highlights:

- At Caltech, all PhD students are offered financial support that provides full tuition and covers mandatory fees, plus a stipend for living expenses throughout their graduate studies at Caltech, provided they are enrolled full-time and making satisfactory progress toward the doctoral degree, including securing a thesis advisor and meeting program requirements. The average length of a Caltech PhD is between five and six years.
- The Caltech graduate stipend rate for the 2023-24 year is \$45,000 for 12 months.
- Details of the financial package will differ from student to student. Packages may include university fellowships, external fellowships, department training grants, individual PI grants, and teaching assistantships.
- Potential and current Ph.D. students are encouraged to seek external fellowships. External fellowships are highly desirable. They are not only prestigious but may provide some research flexibility. Fellowships include:
  - [National Science Foundation](#)
  - [Department of Defense](#)
  - [National Institutes of Health](#)
  - [Ford Foundation](#)
  - [Fannie and John Hertz Foundation](#)

Click [here](#) for additional information on external fellowship opportunities.

- Additional financial support for students with children
  - Enrolled graduate students are eligible to apply for reimbursement for health insurance costs up to \$140 per month per dependent.
  - Enrolled graduate students with children can apply to the Parent Support Program. This fellowship is based on need and can provide up to an additional \$10K of funding per year. Additionally, Caltech has a Child Care Assistance Program that is open to graduate student parents.

Of course, there are other expenses that go along with being a graduate student. All universities should be able to provide estimated costs for expected living expenses—rent, food, insurances, etc. Click [here](#) for the current cost of living estimate at Caltech.