

Useful information about finances and the physics graduate program

Diversity and Inclusion in Physics (DIP)

- Your first paycheck will be November 1, plan accordingly.
- You can request reimbursement for moving expenses starting in fall quarter if you are moving within the US and are appointed as a Teaching Assistant (TA) at least 50% time for the full academic year of your first year. The moving allowance is paid as a flat rate (\$160 to \$440) depending on the approximate air miles from point of origin to the UC Davis campus. Note that if you are a graduate student researcher (GSR) or fully funded by a fellowship for at least one quarter, you may not be eligible for reimbursement of moving expenses.
- Summer TA appointments typically occur during one of two summer sessions, meaning you will have one month over the summer where you do not receive a paycheck. A TA appointment in summer session 1 will be paid August 1 and September 1. A TA appointment in session 2 will be paid September 1 and October 1. Separately, students may receive a summer fellowship stipend, which may be paid at different times. In general, summer funding is not guaranteed after your first year, though it is likely.
- Internal/External fellowships do not have taxes taken out of paychecks, you have to file.
- You can get an emergency loan against your salary.
- GSR salaries can be negotiated with the faculty advisor who is providing the funding. All incoming students are paid at a Step 6 pay grade. The typical percentage is 47%, but it is possible to negotiate to a higher percentage.
- In Davis, it is recommended that you start looking for housing in March (Now).
- Graduate students are eligible for UC SHIP health insurance (<https://shcs.ucdavis.edu/insurance-services>) and are given a fellowship to cover the expense through TA and GSR assignments.
- There is a grad student union which covers TAs but not GSRs (contract negotiations are underway).
- Exams are a very individual experience - ask grad students about this.
- Preliminary exam information:
 - <http://physics.ucdavis.edu/academics/graduate-program/preliminary-exam>
 - <https://sites.google.com/a/ucdavis.edu/physicsprelim/>
- Qualifying Exam Information:
 - http://physics.ucdavis.edu/application/files/8814/4363/7659/qe_info.pdf
- Graduate Student Timeline:
http://physics.ucdavis.edu/application/files/2314/8174/2513/Graduate_Student_Timeline.pdf
- Graduate Student Handbook:
<http://physics.ucdavis.edu/academics/graduate-program/resources-current-students/graduate-student-guide>
- UC Davis office of Graduate Studies offers career services and professional development:
<https://grad.ucdavis.edu>
- If you have any identity/diversity questions about the department, feel free to email Morgan Walker (mawwalker@ucdavis.edu) or Jenna Samuel (jsamuel@ucdavis.edu)