

Date: May 9, 2013

To: Deans, Chairs, Directors of ORUs, Chairs of Graduate Groups,
Graduate Advisers, GSAOs, Research Administrators

From: Andrew J. Szeri, Dean of the Graduate Division

Re: **Graduate Division NRST Matching Program to begin in fall 2014**

To reduce disincentives to recruit and support nonresident doctoral students, the Graduate Division is phasing in a nonresident supplemental tuition (NRST) Matching Program. Beginning with new Ph.D. students in the fall 2014 cohort, the Graduate Division will provide a 1:1 match to departments, ORUs or PIs who pay NRST from eligible sources.

Berkeley's preeminence in doctoral education depends critically on recruiting the very best students nationally and internationally. However, faculty members well know that assessment of NRST to doctoral students can distort decision-making in graduate admissions and in the employment of graduate student researchers (GSRs). The NRST disincentive negatively affects diversity, as nonresident domestic students provide more than half of the underrepresented minority doctoral students in each entering class. The disincentive also discourages admission of international doctoral applicants who extend Berkeley's global reach and often make significant contributions to California's knowledge economy. Often NRST puts Berkeley at a disadvantage when competing for the world's best and brightest.

The Graduate Division already supports NRST payments through a variety of mechanisms, including NRST fellowships, block allocation funds, and paying tuition of campuswide fellowship winners, paying NRST for National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellows, and so on. The NRST Matching Program aims to alleviate some of the burden of departments, ORUs or PIs who pay NRST from other sources.

Funds eligible for matching are:

1. Research funds via GSR appointments at over 45% (with NRST paid); and
2. Departmentally Restricted Funds (DRFs) administered by the Graduate Division on behalf of departments, programs and ORUs via GLOW [1] - except for funds that already receive matching through the Graduate Fellowships Matching Program [2].

Graduate Division will continue to provide NRST fellowships to programs as in the past few years; however, these fellowship awards will be rebalanced to aid programs that have limited recourse to GSRs or to DRFs.

[1] <https://gradlink.berkeley.edu/GLOW/>

[2] <http://grad.berkeley.edu/gradsupport/matching.shtml>

The Matching Program will be phased in over four years. Beginning with the fall 2014 cohort, the Graduate Division will match payment of NRST 1:1 for any *new* PhD nonresident student when NRST is paid from non-Graduate Division sources. In year two (fall 2015), non-advanced doctoral students in their first two years are eligible, and so on until year four of the program when all nonresident (domestic or international) PhD students not yet advanced to candidacy are eligible.

Why is the Graduate Division making the announcement of the NRST matching program well over a year before its inaugural semester? Even as admissions for fall 2013 are proceeding apace, recruitment for fall 2014 has already begun. Academic departments need lead-time to consider how this new program may influence their recruitment and admission of nonresident doctoral students.

Procedural information about how to access the matching funds will be made available with plenty of lead-time.

Continuation of the program will be evaluated continuously. Success of the program will be determined in part by whether enrollment of nonresident Ph.D. students increases both across campus and in individual departments. Any students admitted in the NRST match-eligible cohorts will continue to be supported with the match until advancement to candidacy.