



Berkeley
Graduate Division

Date: January 22, 2021

To: Deans, Chairs, Head Graduate Advisors, Graduate Student Affairs Officers

From: Lisa García Bedolla,
Vice Provost for Graduate Studies and Dean of the Graduate Division
Michael Boots, Chair, Graduate Council, Academic Senate

Re: Revisions to Doctoral Completion Fellowship Eligibility and Stipend Cap Policy

Please note the following changes to university policy concerning funding eligibility for doctoral students.

- Beginning Spring 2021, students who take the Doctoral Completion Fellowship will remain eligible for university fellowship funding, e.g. block grant, UC Dissertation Fellowship, etc., beyond one year past Normative Time to Degree. (Per a 2016 revision, students beyond NT+1 already remain eligible for university employment and other forms of funding, e.g. department endowments, ORU funds, etc.)
 - Note: It remains Graduate Division policy that eligible students may use their DCF at any time after advancement to candidacy, through the end of NT+1. All other policies concerning the DCF remain in effect.
- Beginning AY 2021-22, the Graduate Division's current stipend cap policy will be replaced with one more narrowly focused on limiting the concurrent receipt of multiple Graduate Division fellowships (Berkeley, Chancellor's, DCF, etc.) and the combination of those fellowships with external ones (NSF GRFP and other federal awards, research fieldwork fellowships, etc.). For more details, see the "[Annual Stipend Cap](#)" section in Graduate Division's updated Fellowships Handbook.

The revisions have been made so as to provide additional flexibility to students in DCF-eligible doctoral programs and to academic programs as they work to provide funding for students.

These changes are now reflected in the [Fellowships Handbook](#) and the Guide to Graduate Policy (sections [F3.1](#) and [G1.3](#)).

If you have any questions, please email the Fellowships Unit at gradfell@berkeley.edu.