

Date: May 23, 2018

To: Department Chairs, Head Graduate Advisers, and Graduate Student Affairs Officers

From: Fiona M. Doyle, Vice Provost for Graduate Studies and Dean of the Graduate Division
Eric Falci, Associate Dean

Re: **New Policy on the Combination of Multi-Year Fellowships**

This memo formalizes a policy change announced in this year's Fellowships Handbook, one applicable to recipients of University multi-year fellowships (Berkeley, Chancellor's, etc.).

Beginning with the 2018-19 cohort, multi-year fellows who, prior to exhausting their two years of Graduate Division support, receive an external multi-year fellowship that itself provides at least three years of funding will be required to relinquish one of the two years of Graduate Division support. As examples:

- A fellow who receives a National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellowship (NSF) prior to starting graduate study will enter with four years of full fellowship funding, one from the Graduate Division (e.g., year 1) and three from the NSF (years 2 through 4).
- Those who apply for and receive the NSF in their first year at Berkeley will receive the same funding (Graduate Division support in year 1, NSF in years 2 through 4).
- Those who defer Graduate Division support during their first year (to accept other campus funding, such as a GSR position or training grant award), and who are then offered an NSF, will still retain one year of Graduate Division funding (i.e., department support in year 1, Graduate Division support in year 2, NSF in years 3 through 5).

The savings resulting from this change will help to offset the cost of tuition and fees for recipients of external multi-year awards, a cost that the Graduate Division is, in many cases, absorbing on behalf of campus. For example, the "cost-of-education allowance" provided for NSF fellows now covers less than two-thirds of a fellow's tuition and fees; the Graduate Division pays the balance, including NRST for new students. This new policy attempts to strike a balance between constructing competitive funding packages that attract stellar applicants to Berkeley, and distributing funding broadly to support our entire doctoral student population.

To confirm a few points:

- This change applies only to offers made in 2018 and subsequent years, not to multi-year fellows who entered prior to Fall 2018.
- Fellows in science and engineering programs will still receive a fifth year of fellowship-equivalent funding as part of the departmental support component of the University multi-year offer.

- In programs eligible for the Doctoral Completion Fellowship (DCF), students offered two multi-year fellowships will still receive, in total, at least five years of fellowship funding.

We encourage departments to think carefully and creatively about how multi-year fellowship funding, both Graduate Division and external, fits into a student's overall funding package and academic plan. Some departments may choose to replace the relinquished Graduate Division funding with another year of fellowship, using departmental or block grant awards. In that regard, one of our short-term goals is to increase departmental block allocations, which might be used for such a purpose.

This new policy is reflected in the 2018-19 multi-year offer letters and associated terms document. If you have any questions about the mechanics of the change, please contact Solomon Lefler in the Fellowships office, lefler@berkeley.edu.