

MSLT Funding Overview & Dates

Once a student is accepted to the MSLT program, students are asked to complete a Graduate Instructor Application/Financial Assistance form (see Graduate Instructor Application tab) which indicates that they are interested in receiving financial support while they are in the program. It is important to note that while the MSLT program accepts students on a rolling basis throughout the year, decisions about funding and teaching opportunities for the coming academic year (i.e., August-April) are made only in February. Thus, if newly accepted students want to be considered for financial assistance during their time in the MSLT program, they must submit the Graduate Instructor Application form to the MSLT Co-Directors **no later than Feb. 15** each year. Failure to submit the Graduate Instructor Application by Feb. 15 means that we cannot guarantee funding assistance for the coming academic year.

Below are typical financial packages offered to students. Please note that these figures fluctuate due to differences in varying funding levels for graduate education from the Utah State Legislature, the number of new MSLT students in any given year, and the teaching needs of the Department of Languages, Philosophy, and Communication Studies.

1. Graduate Instructorship (GI) or Graduate Teaching Assistantship (GTA): Full-time students entering the MSLT program who express interest in receiving financial assistance may receive either a GIship or a GTAship during each of the four semesters while they are in the program. A GIship means that you are solely in charge of teaching a foreign language or English as a Second language (ESL) course. A GTAship is also awarded and involves working with an instructor in and outside of his/her classroom throughout the semester. This latter option is typically awarded to students interested in teaching ESL. A GIship comes with an approximate \$5,000 teaching stipend per course/per semester while the GTAship pays \$2,500 - \$4,000 per course/per semester. Again, these teaching stipends are typically offered to most accepted/eligible MSLT students, provided that the Department of Languages, Philosophy, and Communication Studies offers a course in the language of the new MSLT student, the incoming MSLT student's language proficiency is deemed acceptable by language faculty, the student receives positive teaching evaluations once they are teaching a course, and maintains a high level of academic success while in the MSLT program. On average, GIships and GTAships will require that students work 20 hours per week.

2. Research Assistantship: An RAship allows an MSLT student to assist one or more professors in the department with a number of research-related tasks. An RAship's pay depends upon the funding source and each RAship is handled on a case-by-case basis. RAships may require that students work 5 to 20 hours per week.

3. Tuition Award: In addition to either a GIship, GTAship, or RAship, MSLT students are routinely awarded tuition awards. These awards typically cover the cost of up to 6 graduate credits (at the resident tuition rate) per semester. Again, please note that tuition award amounts vary each year due to state appropriations in funding for graduate programs and the number of students in the MSLT program.

4. Insurance Benefit: Every Utah State University graduate student who receives a GIship, GTAship, or RAship is offered insurance coverage. When accepting an assistantship, students must either (a) accept USU's insurance plan for graduate students OR (b) decline the plan by providing documentation that indicates that one's own insurance is adequate.

Finally, please note that USU's graduate tuition rates and fees vary a lot depending on whether or not a student is a Utah resident. Resident tuition rates are much less expensive vs. non-resident tuition rates, which are primarily assessed for international students. Most MSLT students who receive an assistantship will take 7 graduate credits per semester. Based on the 2018-2019 USU tuition and fee schedule, 7 graduate credits at the resident tuition rate = \$2,344.98; the same 7 graduate credits at the non-resident tuition rate = \$8,207.38.

Please also note that if you are a US resident who currently doesn't live in Utah but lives in either Alaska, Arizona, California, Colorado, Hawai'i, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, North Dakota, Oregon, South Dakota, Washington, and Wyoming upon applying to the MSLT, you can attend the MSLT program and be assessed Utah's in-state/resident tuition rate via the Western Regional Graduate Program (WRGP) through the Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education (WICHE). For more information on WICHE, please see the WICHE tab under the 'Financing Your Education' tab on the MSLT website.