

**TEACHERS COLLEGE**  
**COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY**  
A Graduate School of Education, Health & Psychology

**Office of Financial Aid**  
**Scholarships and Stipends – Terms & Conditions**

- Students should expect to **provide additional funds** for the outstanding tuition balance, fees, medical insurance, and academic and living expenses they may incur throughout the semester/academic year.
- **Scholarship(s) may only be applied to the cost of tuition** (NOT including fees, unless otherwise stated) from the Fall through Summer semesters of the academic year referenced in the Financial Aid Award Letter. If necessary, students may contact the Office of Financial Aid to discuss the possibility of reallocating the distribution of their scholarship award(s) within the same academic year. Please note stipend awards cannot be reallocated.
- Scholarship(s) will only cover scholarship points/credits at the current **Teachers College tuition rate**. Students enrolled in courses off-campus that may have higher tuition rates should be prepared to cover any outstanding charges with other resource(s). Students enrolled in courses off-campus that may have lower tuition rates will receive scholarship points/credits up to that course's per credit rate. Tuition-only scholarships are not to exceed the direct charges associated with the course(s).
- Students who receive a reduced tuition rate as a result of being a Columbia University employee will only receive scholarship funding up to the reduced tuition rate. Any scholarship funding awarded is subject to adjustments as a result and the student will be notified.
- Students must be enrolled in at least 1-credit in a degree-seeking program to receive scholarships/stipends.
- Scholarship/stipends awards are **non-renewable** and **not guaranteed** for future academic years.
- Scholarships and stipends are **not transferable** to another academic year.
- Scholarship awards **do not cover** dropped and/or withdrawn courses. Any scholarship applied to a dropped/withdrawn course will be reversed, at which point, any outstanding charges/tuition liability will have to be paid for by another resource.
- Should any adjustments be made to a student's scholarship(s) and/or stipend(s) throughout the academic year, the Office of Financial Aid will provide the student with a revised Financial Aid Award Letter.
- Students who **transfer** to a different program may not be eligible to keep their scholarship and/or stipend awards.
- Students who **defer their enrollment** to a future semester or academic year may not be eligible to defer their scholarship to a future semester or academic year.
- Students who receive scholarships through an **external funding source** that exceeds their cost of tuition should notify the Office of Financial Aid, as the external resource may affect their eligibility for institutional awards.
- **Full-time employees** (including their spouse or dependents) of Teachers College, Barnard College, or Columbia University affiliated employees who are eligible for tuition exemption are not eligible to receive TC scholarships and/or stipends, and they must notify the Office of Financial Aid immediately.

**Teachers College Scholarship and the Margaret Mead Fellowship**

- In addition to the above-mentioned terms and conditions:
  - The Teachers College Scholarship and the Margaret Mead Fellowship are awarded by the Enrollment Management Division, not through the student's program of study/academic department.
  - This is a one-time award for new students that **will not renew** in future aid years. Continuing students are not eligible for either award.
  - Any questions regarding the TC Scholarship or Margaret Mead Fellowship should be directed to your Financial Aid Liaison, not your academic department/program.
  - Recipients of a designated Special Scholarship (Abby O'Neill Fellowship, Lemann Fellowship, City Year Scholarship, Posse Foundation Fellowship, and/or Columbia University Scholarship for Displaced Students) will no longer be eligible to receive the TC Scholarship or the Margaret Mead Fellowship. Therefore, the TC Scholarship and/or the Margaret Mead Fellowship, if awarded, will be canceled as a result.

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**Teachers Future Award Scholarship**

- Open to U.S. Citizens and Permanent Residents who are non-TC or CU employees in a Teacher Certification Master's Program at TC.
- This scholarship is renewable for up to two years but is contingent on the student meeting the academic progress standards.
- Recipients of a designated Special Scholarship (Abby O'Neill Fellowship, Lemann Fellowship, City Year Scholarship, Posse Foundation Fellowship, and/or Columbia University Scholarship for Displaced Students) will no longer be eligible to receive the Teachers Future Award Scholarship. Therefore, the Teachers Future Award Scholarship, if awarded, will be canceled as a result.

**Stipends**

***What are stipends?***

Stipends are a form of institutional financial aid that assist students in the pursuit of their studies at TC, without any work or service requirements. **Stipends may not be used to compensate students for work or service they provide.** Stipend recipients are only obligated to engage in their individual studies and comply with the general rules of the College. Depending on fund restrictions, the student's status, and other factors, students may choose to use a stipend to cover tuition, fees associated with their cost of attendance, living expenses, or independent research endeavors. (See further information below regarding independent research.)

Some stipends may be taxable (but are subject to a different and more favorable set of tax rules than compensation for work or services performed). For example, stipends applied to tuition and books are not taxable, but stipends utilized to support housing or living expenses may be. It is the student's responsibility to properly report this on their taxes, as they will not receive a W-2 or 1099 from the College.

**Note:** *Full-time employees of TC are not eligible for institution-governed funds, which includes student stipends.*

***How are stipends awarded?***

Students must be enrolled in one or more courses to be eligible for a stipend in any given term. Stipends are processed through the Office of Financial Aid.

***When can stipends be awarded***

A stipend request may be submitted for processing up until the last day of the academic term for which it is intended to provide support to the student. **The Office of Financial Aid cannot and will not process retroactive stipend requests for an academic term that has already concluded.**

***Are students required to be registered in order to receive a stipend?***

Students must be enrolled (registered) for one or more courses in order to be awarded a stipend. In the case of summer term, which does not fall under the continuous enrollment policy, and in the event that a student does not intend to take courses in the summer or has completed all required coursework, they must register for IND 5000. Details can be found below.

***Can students receive stipends for conducting independent research?***

Students hired to work in TC offices or appointed as graduate assistants or fellows (e.g., course assistants, teaching assistants, research assistants, doctoral fellows, etc.) **are engaged in service, and must be paid through Payroll** instead of a stipend award.

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Students engaged in \*independent\* research **may be provided with financial aid stipends under a narrow exception** if **ALL** of the following conditions are met.

1. The student must be matriculated in a degree-granting program at TC, must be conducting research that is a requirement for attaining the degree, or be hired in a legitimate post-doctoral fellowship position.
2. The stipend must be intended to support the student so that they can engage in research. This research may be related to a faculty member's research but it must be conducted independently from the faculty member's research. The research must be directly useful to the student, as when the student is conducting research in preparation for their thesis or an article they will seek to publish.
3. Regardless of the source of funding, the student must be engaged solely in independent research and **not** engaged in work which would need to be done by someone else if the student were not doing it.
4. The student must be enrolled in one or more courses for a term, or be eligible to register for IND 5000 during a summer term for which they do not intend to register for regular coursework. Please note, IND 5000 must be added to the student's record during the add/drop period. Late registrations for this course will not be permitted.

Course description for IND 5000 (Independent Research): This course is open to all degree students who are engaging in non-credit independent research (e.g., working towards a dissertation proposal, dissertation manuscript, or other academic project) and need to maintain registration but are not registering for any regular courses in a given (summer) semester. This course requires a minimum of 18 hours per week of independent research outside of the formal setting. This course is offered for zero points, and does not carry the non-refundable College Fee. Retroactive registration is not permitted. This course can only be taken up to four times and may not be used in lieu of any degree requirements or to satisfy the College's continuous enrollment policy. Registration for this course must be completed by the Office of the Registrar with permission from the student's research advisor. This course does not provide full-time status for Federal Title IV Aid purposes. This course is offered in the summer term only.

**Please feel free to contact the Office of Financial Aid via email ([financialaid@tc.columbia.edu](mailto:financialaid@tc.columbia.edu)) or telephone (212-678-3714) with any questions or concerns. Additional information can also be found on the Office of Financial Aid website ([www.tc.edu/financialaid](http://www.tc.edu/financialaid)).**