



INCM Program Funding Guidelines

Research and Teaching Assistantships (RTAs) are designed to support the research and teaching responsibilities of the university and their strategic partners with specific focus on supporting the research and teaching activities of INCM Program Faculty and contributing departments and external partners. In addition, RTA positions provide students with professional development opportunities while enrolled in the PhD program. RTA assignments require students to maintain satisfactory academic standing in the INCM program and to meet the expectations specified in the assigned RTA duties. Provided satisfactory academic and RTA performance, and depending on the annual program budget, the INCM typically provides funding for the duration of one Academic Year, renewable for a maximum of three years. Specific assistantships are typically awarded for a term of one semester, in justifiable cases assistantships may also be awarded for a period of two semesters, and are renewable at the discretion of the INCM Program Administration.

Eligibility and Renewal of Assistantships: To be eligible for an INCM Research or Teaching Assistantship, a student must:

For First-Year students

- be accepted into the INCM program and receive a recommendation by the INCM Program Admissions Committee to be considered for funding.

For Second-Year students

- successfully pass their first year in the program and be recommended by PhD INCM Administration for continued funding

For Third-Year students

- successful completion of the comprehensive exams and, as applicable, satisfactory performance in prior RTA assignments OR
- satisfactory academic and RTA performance.

Types of Funding: The INCM Program awards two types of assistantships:

1. Full funding at the level of \$15,000/Academic Year (including a tuition waiver for up to 24 credit hours per year) in return for 20 hours/week of assigned RTA duties.
2. Partial funding at the level of \$7,500/Academic Year (including a tuition waiver for up to 24 credit hours per year) in return for 10 hours/week of assigned RTA duties.

Decisions on continued funding and type of assistantship are made on a competitive basis based on a comparative evaluation of students' performance both academically and in completing their assigned RTA duties.

External funding: Competing for external funding is part of the professional development of doctoral candidates. Receiving a competitive external fellowship is an honor that stays with students throughout their career and can improve their professional prospects. Therefore, all Doctoral students are strongly encouraged to seek external financial support in the form of dissertation fellowships and grants to cover the dissertation related expenses. Any successfully acquired external funding will extend, not replace, the financial aid received from the PhD Program.



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Graduate School Policy: To continue the assistantship, the student must maintain good academic standing and an acceptable job performance. However, should a student's grade point average fall below 3.0 (academic warning), the student will have one semester to improve and return to academic good standing before the assistantship is terminated. Should a student fail to return to good standing after one semester, or should a student receive academic exclusion and be dismissed from the degree program, the assistantship would be terminated at once. For more details on Graduate School policies, please visit:

http://www.kennesaw.edu/graduate/research_assistantships.shtml