

Funding Graduate Study

A Primer

This is a free, open-source resource by Donald Asher, author of the best-selling guide to getting into graduate school, *Graduate Admissions Essays*, 4th ed., 2012. You are welcome to share this with all your friends, students, faculty, staff, etc., and you may post this anywhere in any format in any medium. Also, alert me to cool resources (email below).

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Email me and I will send you an article on how to fund your graduate studies: don@donaldasher.com

Use my book, *The Best Scholarships for the Best Students*, by Donald Asher, Jason Morris, and Nichole Fazio-Veigel (which includes elite internships and lab opportunities in addition to funding, all the way to postdoc)

Avoid using the term “financial aid,” but instead inquire about “funding and support.” Many (but not all) programs have teaching, research, and graduate assistantships, so you can ask them some version of this: “When and how do you choose your TAs, RAs, and GAs, and can you help me understand *all* the forms of funding and support available to students in your program?” They may say, “It’s all on our web site,” *so you’d better have looked carefully on the web site first.*

Also, check out these books & web sites:

UCLA’s *Graduate & Postdoctoral Extramural Support (GRAPES) Database*, available at www.grad.ucla.edu/grpinst.htm (fantastic open resource; yay, UCLA!)

University of California-Santa Cruz (UCSC): *Fellowships & Funding Guide for Graduate Students*, available at <http://careers.ucsc.edu/grad/fellowships.html>

Funding the Humanities PhD: The Grad Student's Guide to Grants & Fellowships [Kindle Edition], by J. Martin, PhD, available from amazon.com for \$3.99 (this is an excellent guide in an area that doesn’t get enough attention, i.e., funding for humanities; highly recommended)

Foundation Grants to Individuals, by Foundation Center (various authors; annual)

Annual Register of Grant Support, by Beverley McDonough and Daniel Bazikian (annual, obviously, hence the name)

Finaid.org

Fastweb.com

FAFSA: **www.fafsa.com**

Grants.gov (\$500 billion in funding)

NIH: **grants.nih.gov/grants/oer.htm**

NSF: **nsf.gov/funding**

NASA: **intern.nasa.gov/solar/web/public/main** (SOLAR is Student On-Line Application for Recruiting)

COS: **pivot.cos.com** (Community of Science)

(these are just the most important; for hundreds of specialized sites, for underrepresented students, for international students, STEM only, etc., see *The Best Scholarships for the Best Students*)