10.2.2 GRADUATE STUDENT HOURLY EMPLOYMENT

Last updated on:

This Guide Memo outlines policies and procedures for employment of Stanford graduate students on campus in positions other than assistantships. For employment of graduate students in research and teaching assistantships, see Guide Memo 10.2.1 [1]. For employment of undergraduate students, see Guide Memo 10.1.1 [2].

Authority:
Approved by the Vice Provost for Graduate Education.

Applicability:
Applies to the employment of graduate students in positions other than assistantships.

1. Definitions and Distinctions

a. Student hourly employment. Stanford University uses student hourly employment to hire Stanford students into jobs that are specifically earmarked for matriculated students. Student workers are supervised in their work, are hired through the PeopleSoft HR system, and must record and approve their work hours. Compensation is established on an hourly basis, and the amount of pay is based on the actual number of hours worked in each pay period.

These job assignments are incidental to the student’s course of study with reasonable limitations placed during the academic quarter on the nature of the work assignment and the number of hours of employment.

All Stanford University student employment is hourly, with the exception of assistantships, which are limited to graduate students (see Admin Guide 10.2.1). Hourly employment should never be used to pay a graduate student for work that is appropriately treated as an assistantship.

b. Graduate student. This policy applies to students who are enrolled in a graduate degree program (any degree except the BA, BS, or BAS). For purposes of student employment, students enrolled in both undergraduate and graduate degree programs as coterminal students are considered undergraduate students while assessed undergraduate tuition and graduate students while assessed graduate tuition.

c. The Graduate Financial Support (GFS) system is the online application used to enter all research and teaching assistantship appointments, fellowships, and other stipend payments for graduate students and postdoctoral scholars. It is not used to process hourly employment.

d. Job Classification Codes (JCC) are used to categorize all jobs at Stanford. Students should be hired into the appropriate student JCC [3] for the job for which they are employed. Use of the appropriate JCC ensures that the correct expenditure type and fringe benefit rate are applied as wages are paid.
**Distinctions from Hourly Employment:**

- **Graduate Student Assistantships** are a form of student employment, earning a compensation package including both salary and tuition allowance (TAL) for the performance of research or teaching services to the University as part of the student's academic and professional training and development, see Guide Memo 10.2.1. Hourly employment is not a substitute for an assistantship appointment.

- **Honorarium** is a stipend payment to recognize a student for an accomplishment or a one-time event or project, such as a recruitment weekend. Honoraria are not used as compensation for employment. Graduate student honorarium payments are processed as stipends in the GFS system.

- **Off-Campus Internships and Off-Campus Employment** are not covered by this policy. In both cases, students are encouraged to be mindful that their primary obligation is to their academic program. International students must also adhere to visa requirements.

- **Contingent (Casual or Temporary) Employment** is used to hire an individual for a part-time or temporary staff position. Contingent employment must be used for hourly employment assignments for non-matriculated students, such as Visiting Student Researchers, and for matriculated students when on a Leave of Absence. Contingent employment is not normally used for enrolled, matriculated Stanford students, but must be used for any student working more than 36 hours per week.

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**2. Limits on Hours of Employment**

Graduate students are expected to limit their hours of employment, so that they may devote sufficient attention to their studies. Therefore, graduate students are expected to coordinate the number of hours of employment with their academic obligations, including course load, number of registered units, and the academic expectations of their program. Additionally, they are expected to coordinate hourly employment with the other forms of financial support that they are receiving. Academic departments/programs, offices employing students, and funding sources may also impose employment limitations.

Limits on hourly employment and related enrollment limitations for graduate students are summarized in Table 1.

**a. Limit on Hours**

There are formal limits on the number of hours a student may be employed when also financially supported by assistantships or fellowships.

During Autumn, Winter and Spring quarters, enrolled graduate students are limited to 28 hours of student employment, combining hourly employment and assistantship appointments. (International students are subject to additional limitations, see below.) For example, graduate students appointed to 50% (20 hours/week) assistantships may not be employed more than an additional eight hours a week; those additional hours cannot be in other assistantship positions. Graduate students with full fellowship funding are limited to additional employment of 8 hours/week hourly employment or a 25% assistantship, but not both. The source of the fellowship or the student’s academic department/program may impose stricter limits.

During Summer quarter, enrolled graduate students are limited to 36 hours of student employment, combining hourly employment and assistantship appointments. (International students may be subject to additional limitations, see below.) For example, students on 50% time (20 hours/week) assistantships may not be employed more than an additional 16 hours a week; those additional hours can combine either assistantships or hourly employment. In summer, students who are employed more than 8 hours with a 50% assistantship are expected to reduce the number of units of enrollment commensurate with a larger percentage
appointment. (This is shown in the TAL table for Summer Quarter.) Graduate students with full fellowship funding are limited to additional employment of 16 hours/week hourly employment or a 50% assistantship, but not both. The source of the fellowship or the student’s academic department/program may impose stricter limits.

During break periods between quarters—the period between the last day of final examinations and the first day of classes the subsequent quarter—graduate students may be employed full time. Thanksgiving recess is not a break between quarters.

**b. Additional Limits on Hours for International Students on F-1 or J-1 Visas**

International students on F-1 or J-1 visas are subject to both University policies on employment and visa requirements that limit employment; in all cases, the more restrictive limitation will apply.

International students are eligible for on-campus employment if they are maintaining F-1 or J-1 status. During the academic year (Autumn, Winter and Spring quarters), students on F-1 or J-1 visas are limited to a total of 20 hours of employment per week (except during the break periods between quarters), including both hourly jobs and assistantship appointment(s), and including any off-campus employment that they may have been authorized to perform.

During Summer quarter, most international students are subject to the general University policies for summer graduate student employment, and their F-1 or J-1 visa does not further restrict their hours of employment. However, any graduate student who is required to enroll full time in summer quarter in order to maintain legal visa status—such as newly admitted students who will start their program in the summer, or those students returning from a leave of absence in the summer—may not work more than a combined total of 20 hours per week.

During break periods between quarters—the period between the last day of finals and the first day of classes the subsequent quarter—international graduate students may be employed full time (up to 40 hours per week), provided they are eligible and intend to register for the next academic quarter. Thanksgiving recess is not a break between quarters.

Although federal regulations allow for full-time on-campus employment during break periods, departments/programs may have other restrictions and policies that limit the amount of on-campus employment during break periods. If this is the case, then these policies take precedence. Students must check with their department/program for any restrictions.

Further information regarding employment limits for students on F-1 or J-1 visas is available from the Bechtel International Center.

**c. Additional Limits on Hours for International Students with other Visas**

International students who have a visa besides an F-1 or J-1 visas should check with the Bechtel International Center to determine if they are in a status that allows employment and, if so, any restrictions on employment.

**Table 1: Maximum Number of Hours of Hourly Employment Permitted per Week**

Funding source or the student’s academic department/program may impose stricter limits. Footnotes describe the related limitations on enrollment.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>OTHER FUNDING</th>
<th>50% ASSISTANTSHIP</th>
<th>ASSISTANTSHIP BETWEEN 10-40%</th>
<th>FULL FELLOWSHIP</th>
<th>NO OTHER FINANCIAL SUPPORT</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>ACADEMIC YEAR</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>U.S. student</td>
<td>8 hours</td>
<td>28 hours minus hours of assistantship</td>
<td>8 hours or 25% assistantship, but not both</td>
<td>28 hours</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>International student on F-1 or J-1 Visa</td>
<td>0 hours</td>
<td>20 hours minus hours of assistantship</td>
<td>8 hours or 25% assistantship, but not both</td>
<td>20 hours</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>SUMMER</strong></td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>U.S. student; International student whose visa status permits part-time summer enrollment</td>
<td>16 hours</td>
<td>36 hours minus hours of assistantship</td>
<td>16 hours or 50% assistantship, but not both</td>
<td>36 hours. More than 36 hours requires hiring as a Contingent (Casual or Temporary) employee through Human Resources.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>International student whose F-1 or J-1 Visa requires full-time enrollment</td>
<td>0 hours</td>
<td>20 hours minus hours of assistantship</td>
<td>16 hours or 50% assistantship, but not both</td>
<td>20 hours</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>BREAK PERIODS BETWEEN QUARTERS</strong></td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>U.S. student</td>
<td>Full Time</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>International student on F-1 or J-1 Visa</td>
<td>Full Time</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* Break periods do not include holiday days during the quarter (e.g., Memorial Day, President’s day), nor Thanksgiving recess.

1 Students with a 50% appointment are limited to 10 units, TGR, or graduation quarter enrollment.
2 In summer, students who are employed more than 8 hours with an assistantship of 50% or more are expected to reduce the number of units of enrollment commensurate with a larger percentage appointment.
3 The percentage of the assistantship appointment determines the amount of Tuition Allowance (TAL) that is provided and the expectations for the number of units of enrollment. This is shown in the TAL table for Summer Quarter [4].
4 International graduate students may be employed full time during break periods between quarters provided they are eligible and intend to register for the next academic quarter.

3. Hiring, Paying and Supervising Students

a. Hiring
The supervisor notifies the human resources administrator to make the appropriate system entry. The students should be hired into the appropriate Job Classification Code (JCC). The student must be hired into PeopleSoft HR before beginning work. Students who are hired during Summer quarter, but who are not enrolled, must be hired as Student Hourly Employees using the appropriate Summer Student JCC. This step is required even if the student is continuing a work assignment that started during the academic year.

Before hiring a graduate student for hourly employment, a graduate student assistantship, or any other type of appointment through Human Resources the hiring department should contact the student’s academic home department/program to review the appointment (see the GFS School contact list). The hourly appointment must be reviewed for appropriateness taking into account:

- The student’s academic obligations, including course load, number of registered units, and other expectations
- Other forms of financial support that the student is receiving, including fellowships and assistantships.
- Funding sources may impose limits on hourly employment
- Any limits that the student’s home academic department/program imposes (e.g., program may limit hourly student employment)
- Limitations placed on international students

Students who receive a university award that includes funding to hire graduate students to complete hourly work (e.g., coding, transcription, or other effort associated with academic projects) are subject to these policies. In such cases, the department should manage the funding and hire the student hourly employee.

**b. Wage rates**

There is no suggested wage scale for hourly employment for graduate students. When setting the hourly wage rate for a graduate student, the following may be taken into consideration:

- The tasks required of the student, including the level of independence, judgment and expertise;
- The student’s experience in similar work assignments;
- Wage rate paid to other graduate students in department for comparable work.

**c. Payment**

Departments pay student workers from their own sources of funding.

Hourly student workers must record actual hours worked in Axess Timecard each pay period. Each month has two pay periods: The first day of the month through the 15th and the 16th through the last day of the month. Paychecks are issued on the workday that falls on or immediately prior to the seventh calendar day after the end of each pay period.

**d. Supervision**

One person should be named as the student’s immediate supervisor and should be directly accountable for overseeing the student’s work and approving the hours worked in Axess.

**e. Work Schedules and Requirements**

A student is expected to work the agreed hours, be punctual, and satisfy all reasonable requirements of the employer with regard to performance and behavior. Most on-campus employers build in some flexibility in hours given students’ exam schedules, but that is not always possible and students are expected to carry through if they have agreed to be at work.

**f. Sick Time**

Sick time provides a mechanism to pay graduate student hourly employees when they are unable to perform their work responsibilities due to illness or for other related reasons as detailed below. All Stanford student hourly employees receive sick time benefits. Arrangements for any variations in work hours, including time off
for illness or related uses of sick time, should be made individually with the student hourly employee's supervisor. To the extent possible, student hourly employees are encouraged to make arrangements outside of their working hours and supervisors are encouraged to offer flexibility in work hours.

For information about the accrual and use of sick time for student hourly employees, see Administrative Guide Memo 10.3.1 [7]: Sick Time for Student Hourly Employees.

g. Job Listing
Stanford departments wishing to hire graduate students may use the system administered by BEAM (Bridging Education, Ambition and Meaningful Work) to list their job openings. Departments should log onto Handshake [8] to post a job. Departments may also use their own means of locating student employees.

h. Non-Discrimination
Non-discrimination policies applicable to regular staff, as stated in Guide Memo 2.1.2, section 2.a. [9], also apply to student employees.

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Links
[8] https://beam.stanford.edu/