
From: Lynn Cooley, Dean of the Graduate School <grad.dean@message.yale.edu>
Sent: Monday, April 20, 2020 4:38 PM
Subject: Update on graduate student support

Yale

Graduate School of Arts and Sciences

Copied to: DGSs, chairs and GSAS staff

In this message: Dean's Emergency Fund, Yale Health coverage, Graduate School Alumni Fellowships

April 20, 2020

Dear graduate students,

We know that you are experiencing unique needs during this period of disruption, and in consultation with your DGSs, the Graduate School has been working to determine how best to help you navigate these difficult times. Our planning is in process, and we are trying to address the most immediate needs first.

First, we are increasing the amount of money available in the [Dean's Emergency Fund](#) to better help students continue to make academic progress, despite unanticipated, extreme financial hardships. The fund is intended for Ph.D. students who cannot reasonably resolve their immediate financial difficulty through fellowships, loans, or personal resources. We hope to be able to meet acute need for immediate assistance in this way.

In addition, all May 2020 graduates remain enrolled in Yale Health through July 31st and are eligible for an extended Yale Health Award funded by GSAS through August 31st, 2020. This award is designed to help students whose future employment elsewhere does not begin until September 1st of this year. Yale Health is not an option for graduates after August 31st who do not have student or employee status. However, Yale Health will provide May graduates with advice

about navigating the health exchanges to identify options that fulfill their health insurance needs.

Many 2020 graduates, however, still face uncertain job prospects, and for them, we have created a new post-graduate employment opportunity, the Graduate School Alumni Fellowship.

Graduates without employment for the coming academic year are eligible to apply for a limited number of 10-month, full-time, non-renewable positions at Yale, available only in 2020-2021. Alumni Fellows will support the academic priorities of the university in a variety of ways to be determined by the Graduate School, in consultation with their program. Applicants will be selected on the basis of excellence in teaching and research. Positions begin on August 1st and carry benefits including health insurance.

We expect to offer at least 30 such positions, and the MacMillan Center is working to identify additional positions. We will launch the application process with a more detailed description of the positions in the next two weeks.

We very much hope that these initiatives will help to allay some of your immediate concerns related to the effects of the pandemic. Within the next weeks, I will write with further news about accommodations designed to help students graduating one, two and more years from now.

Yours,

Lynn Cooley

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