

Policy Name: Graduate Student Tuition Waivers

Policy Owner: Office of Graduate Education

Policy Contact: Bonnie Ferri

Reviewed By: Graduate and Postdoctoral Education, Enrollment Management,
Scholarships and Financial Aid, International Education, Registrar

Policy Steering Committee Approval: August 2026

Policy Purpose: This policy outlines requirements for the two major types of tuition waivers; sets conditions for waivers if the student's employment status changes during the term; and sets conditions for Graduate Research Assistant (GRA) or Graduate Teaching Assistant (GTA) positions in non-academic units.

Summary of Substantive Policy Changes:

- Procedures removed throughout except where necessary to fully describe policy
- Added out-of-country tuition waiver classification
- Clarified student responsibility for mandatory student fees
- Clarified student responsibility for differential tuition except where programs have chosen to waive it
- Updated waiver types and specified various offices that have purview over requests, review, and awarding of waivers
- In general, brought policy into alignment with current practice
- Updated links and reference material including the relatively new [Graduate Student Employment Manual](#)



Georgia Institute of Technology

Graduate Student Tuition Waivers

Type of Policy: Administrative

Effective Date: August 2016

Last Revised: September 2026

Review Date: March 2022

Policy Owner: Office of Graduate Education

Policy Contact: Bonnie Ferri, Vice Provost for Graduate and Postdoctoral Education, bonnie.ferri@gatech.edu

1. Reason for Policy

This policy outlines requirements for the two major types of tuition waivers; sets conditions for waivers if the student's employment status changes during the term; and sets conditions for Graduate Research Assistant (GRA) or Graduate Teaching Assistant (GTA) positions in non-Academic Units.

2. Policy Statement

2.1 Tuition Waivers – General

Full waivers of Regular Graduate Tuition accompany GRA and GTA positions. Academic Units may offer Half Tuition Waivers; tuition waivers may be prorated for approved hires after the term starts; and Academic Units may provide tuition waivers to GRAs or GTAs working in non-Academic Units if the work is done under the supervision of a faculty member. Graduate students are eligible for Out-of-State or Out-of-Country Tuition Waivers only under special circumstances. Students with Full Tuition Waivers remain responsible for a \$25 registration fee (see Board of Regents [BOR] Policy Manual 7.3.1.2), any applicable differential tuition (see "Graduate Assistantship Rates" published by the Bursar), and all mandatory fees.

2.2 Student Responsibility for Fees and Differential Tuition

Tuition waivers in general do not waive payment of fees or differential tuition charged by some programs. Students remain responsible for paying fees and differential tuition. Graduate programs can choose to waive the differential tuition for students hired as GRAs or GTAs.

2.3 Out-of-State and Out-of-Country Tuition Waivers

Out-of-State and Out-of-Country Tuition Waivers, sometimes called non-resident tuition waivers (NRTWs), eliminate the difference between the regular in-state and out-of-state or out-of-country tuition rates. Program Differential Tuition, if applicable, is not waived. These waivers fall into several categories described in BOR Policy 7.3.4.1. The Vice Provost for Enrollment Management, the Registrar's Office, the Vice Provost for Graduate and Postdoctoral Education, and the Office of International Education approve these waivers as described in the Catalog and below.

The Vice Provost for Enrollment Management, the authorized representative of Georgia Tech's President, awards Presidential Waivers for graduate students. The total number of Presidential Waivers is limited to 4% of total enrollment as described in BOR Policy 7.3.4.1.

The BOR allocates an additional 140 Research University total Out-of-State or Out-of-Country Tuition Waivers to Georgia Tech for graduate students. The Vice Provost for Graduate and Postdoctoral Education awards these waivers.

The Office of the Registrar awards waivers for University System employees and dependents, full-time school employees, career consular officials, military personnel and their families, students associated with economic development activities of the state, and family members of residents as outlined in the Catalog.

The Office of International Education (OIE) awards Exchange Waivers to exchange students participating in official, bilateral programs. They can also award these waivers to students in exchange-based scholarship/fellowship programs.

2.4 Full Tuition Waivers

The BOR permits Georgia Tech to waive tuition for research assistants (GRAs) and teaching assistants (GTAs) (see [BOR Policy Manual Section 7.3.1.2](#)). A GRA or GTA must be registered full-time as described in the Catalog and be employed at least one third time (0.33 FTE). Full Tuition Waivers are not limited in number by the BOR.

2.4a Sponsored GRAs

Most GRAs are supported under grants or contracts and thereby receive Full Tuition Waivers. When this is the case, tuition "remission" is charged to the grant. Tuition Remission is paid at the rate negotiated with the federal government and is reflected in our agreements with our federal audit agency, the Office of Naval Research (ONR); the current rate is posted on the [Office of Sponsored Programs website](#). If the agency's policies for a particular program do not allow this full payment, the EVPR can authorize that the sponsored project not be charged Tuition Remission. The EVPR's office must approve this exception at the time the

proposal is submitted. Foundation accounts also pay Tuition Remission when they support GRAs to maintain consistent charging. The money charged to grants and foundation accounts goes into a fund called GSTRP (the Graduate Student Tuition Remission Program), which is used to cover the cost of tuition.

2.4b Non-Sponsored GRAs and GTAs

Any graduate student on non-sponsored GRA or GTA support (that is, support paid with state operating funds) also receives a Full Tuition Waiver. Georgia Tech is required under its federal contracting relationship to maintain consistency between the cost of sponsored GRAs and the cost of GTAs and non-sponsored GRAs.

2.4c Graduate Assistants (GAs)

The BOR allows Georgia Tech to give Full Tuition Waivers to graduate assistants (those doing small jobs or administrative work or part-time students), but Georgia Tech reserves that category of employment to be used without a Full Tuition Waiver.

2.5 Timing of Waivers

Academic Units must apply waivers to student accounts before the tuition and fee payment deadline each semester. Full Tuition Waivers must be associated with a GRA or GTA hiring action by that same time. If these conditions are not met, the student is responsible for full tuition for the term.

2.5a Termination Mid-Semester

If a student on an assistantship withdraws, completes their degree work, or leaves campus permanently, an Academic Unit may terminate their assistantship mid-semester. In these cases, stipends will be paid only to the date of termination. Any tuition waiver applied at the beginning of the semester will continue to be in force. Sponsored projects will be charged the monthly rate for Tuition Remission up to the date of termination.

If a student does not complete the work commitment for any reason other than withdrawing and leaving school, then the tuition waiver will be removed, and the student will be responsible for paying tuition for the full term at the applicable rate.

2.5b Late Hires

In the rare case in which a student is hired for a GRA or GTA position after tuition and fees are due for the term, responsibility for tuition up to the month of hiring remains with the student, at the applicable rate. Responsibility for tuition from the month of hiring shifts to the account to which the GRA or GTA position is being charged using a prorated tuition waiver amount reflecting the portion of the term remaining based on the last day of the hiring month. Because the

percentages vary from term to term, the Bursar will post the percentages for each term. Since late hiring is an exception to regular practices and may affect other aspects of financial aid, it requires review by the Registrar, Bursar, and Office of Scholarships and Financial Aid and written approval from the Vice Provost for Graduate and Postdoctoral Education.

2.6 Half Waivers

Graduate programs may offer half research or teaching assistantships to full-time students if state funds are being used. Half waivers eliminate the differential between the in-state and out-of-state or out-of-country tuition rates. The student pays half the regular in-state tuition, and the other half is waived. The student is still responsible for all applicable differential tuition. The work assignment for these assistantships must be half the number of hours required for a full assistantship in the same program.

2.7 Tuition Waivers for Work Outside the Colleges

All GRA and GTA tuition waivers are authorized and used by Academic Units alone. The student's home school must enter the waiver, regardless of where the student is working. By entering the waiver, the Academic Unit certifies that the work to be done is relevant to the student's graduate education. If non-Academic Units want to fund GRA or GTA positions, they can request the waiver to accompany the positions from the home school of the student who will be hired. The unit must certify that the assignment contributes to the student's graduate education and an Academic Faculty member must provide supervision for the educational aspect of the work, as shown by the student's registering for GRA or GTA credit with that faculty member. All GRA or GTA assignments outside the colleges must be approved by the Vice Provost for Graduate and Postdoctoral Education via the Office of Graduate Education.

3. Scope

The policy applies to all graduate students and all programs.

4. Definitions

Academic Unit	Any school, department, or program within one of the colleges.
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Academic Faculty	As defined in the Faculty Handbook. To supervise GRA or GTA credits, the individual must be credentialed to be an instructor by the Office of Faculty Affairs.
Full Tuition Waiver	Administrative action that reduces tuition for a graduate research or teaching assistant to \$25 plus applicable differential tuition.
Half Tuition Waiver	Administrative action that reduces the tuition bill for a graduate student to half of the in-state tuition level plus applicable differential tuition. Can be used only with state funds.
Out-of-State or Out-of-Country Tuition Waiver	Administrative action that reduces tuition for an out-of-state or out-of-country student to the in-state level; sometimes referred to as a non-resident tuition waiver (NRTW).
Principal Investigator	Individual responsible for the overall design, conduct and reporting of research or other externally funded sponsored activity.
Program Differential Tuition	Additional tuition charged for some nationally competitive graduate and professional programs and approved by the BOR; not waived unless approved by the program.
Regular Graduate Tuition	The standard graduate tuition rate as defined by Board of Regents policy. Some programs charge a higher "differential" tuition rate on top of the regular rate. Full waivers only cover the regular rate.
Tuition Remission	The tuition rate automatically charged to a GTF account or sponsored project when a GRA or GTA is paid from the account or project. When the project pays Tuition Remission, the student receives a Full Tuition Waiver as described above.

5. Forms

Title	Link
Request for Out-of-State or Out-of-Country Tuition Waiver from VPGPE	https://grad.gatech.edu/out-state-waiver-requests
Request for Out-of-State Tuition Waiver from Registrar	https://catalog.gatech.edu/financial/tuition/out-of-state-tuition-waivers/
Request for exchange waiver from OIE	https://isssoie.gatech.edu/content/exchange-waivers
Request to hire a GRA outside of the colleges	https://grad.gatech.edu/request-tuition-waiver-work-nonacademic-unit-gra
Request to hire a GTA outside of the colleges	https://grad.gatech.edu/request-tuition-waiver-work-nonacademic-unit-gta

6. Frequently Asked Questions

More information regarding graduate student employment resources can be found at <https://grad.gatech.edu/hiring-supervision>.

7. Responsibilities

Home school of GRA or GTA enters the tuition waiver to accompany a GRA or GTA appointment.

Office of Scholarships and Financial Aid enters Presidential Out-of-State or Out-of-Country Tuition Waivers for graduate students, either under standing instructions or with the approval of the Vice Provost for Graduate and Postdoctoral Education.

Registrar's Office enters Out-of-state and Out-of-Country Waivers for special categories mandated by the Board of Regents.

Office of International Education approves Out-of-state and Out-of-Country Waivers for international exchange students.

Executive Vice President for Research (EVPR) approves all exceptions to the policy of charging Tuition Remission to GTF and sponsored accounts.

Bursar's Office applies or removes tuition waivers, including pro-rating when approved and posting the schedule and percentages for pro-rating; reports Presidential waiver usage after the fall and spring terms to the Provost and Vice Provost for Enrollment Management.

Vice Provost for Enrollment Management monitors and approves Presidential Out-of-State Tuition Waivers and performs waiver allocation planning.

Vice Provost for Graduate and Postdoctoral Education approves all late GRA or GTA hires; all GRA or GTA hires outside the colleges; all Research University Out-of-State and Out-of-Country Waivers; and any exceptions to this policy for extenuating circumstances.

Office of Graduate Education monitors policy compliance for GRA and GTA waiver usage; enters out-of-state and out-of-country Research University waivers; enters Presidential waivers supporting students on some fellowships.

Principal Investigators hire graduate students on sponsored projects, pay Tuition Remission, and comply with graduate student employment policies

Students are responsible for paying all fees and any tuition, including differential tuition, that is not waived by the Bursar's deadlines each term.

8. Enforcement

Principal Investigators, units, or programs that violate this policy must pay any resulting tuition balances with GTF or GTRC funds. Students who violate this policy must pay any tuition due or have their registration canceled due to lack of payment.

Refer to the Graduate Student Employment Manual for additional guidance and resources on proper use of waivers, the work environment for graduate student employees, and where to seek support.

9. Related Information

Resource	Link
BOR Policy Manual Section 7.3.4.1.	https://usg.policystat.com/policy/19848518/latest/#autoid-7ye69
Graduate Assistantships	https://catalog.gatech.edu/financial/assistance/grad/assistantships
Graduate Assistant Schedule and Flexibility	https://policylibrary.gatech.edu/academic-affairs/graduate-assistantship-schedule-and-flexibility-policy

Graduate Student Enrollment and Employment	https://policylibrary.gatech.edu/academic-affairs/graduate-student-enrollment-and-employment
Graduate Student Employment Manual	https://grad.gatech.edu/hiring-supervision/graduate-student-employment-manual
Graduate Student Employment Resources	https://grad.gatech.edu/hiring-supervision
Tuition Waivers Associated with Sponsored Research	https://research.gatech.edu/tuition-waivers

10. Policy History

Revision Date	Author	Description
September 2026	Office of Graduate Education	Updated to align with current practice
August 2016	Office of Graduate Education	New Policy