

Guiding Principles for graduate student funding in Linguistics

Approved by the Executive Committee of the Linguistics Graduate Group, 12 November, 2007

The distribution of funds for graduate students is constrained by the annually variable needs of the Graduate Group to balance the competing demands of limited funds, programmatic needs for new enrollments, and the needs and desires of continuing students, among whom the time to degree may differ for a variety of reasons. Because there are also variables outside of the control of the Admissions Committee of the Graduate Group in Linguistics, which is authorized to make decisions about admissions and funding, such as the amount of block grant funding, the enrollments in Linguistics courses which potentially yield TA-ships for Linguistics graduate students, etc., it is not possible to GUARANTEE any specific number of quarters of funding for graduate students in our programs. By the same token, it is not incumbent upon the Graduate Group to draw ABSOLUTE LIMITS on funding, beyond those drawn by Graduate Studies (see <http://gradstudies.ucdavis.edu/students/handbook/2.html>). Nevertheless, the Admissions Committee needs to operate with a set of Guiding Principles for the annual distribution of funds. These Guiding Principles can, in turn, be used by graduate students as a guide for their own academic and financial planning.

Guiding Principles 1-3 are ranked according to priority (with 1 being the highest) and are to be applied sequentially by ranking, except as noted in Principle 4, in the annual determination of how funds are to be distributed. Priority for funding is tied to quarters as a Linguistics graduate student or a Linguistics Ph.D. student, which are to be counted in terms of numbers of quarters enrolled as such, discounting any periods of sanctioned leave and adjusting appropriately for any periods of sanctioned part-time enrollment. Since the Ph.D. program began in Fall 2004, the Admissions Committee has been able to exceed the funding goals stated in Principle 2, without, however, being able to always fully meet those stated in Principle 3.

Nutshell summary of the funding procedure as expressed in Principles 1–3 and 5

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| Step 1 | Try to ensure that new and continuing Ph.D. students are fully funded in some way, provided that they are making satisfactory progress and they are to be in their first 4 years as a graduate student in Linguistics (in either the M.A. or Ph.D. program or both). |
| Step 2 | Try to ensure that continuing Ph.D. students beyond their 4 th year in Linguistics at UC Davis are fully funded in some way, provided that they are making satisfactory progress and they EITHER are to be in their first 5 years and were admitted directly to the Ph.D. program (from outside of Linguistics) OR are to be in their first 4 years as a Ph.D. student and were enrolled in the UCD M.A. program in Linguistics for 3 or more quarters. |
| Step 3 | Try to ensure that ALL graduate students in Linguistics (in both the M.A. and Ph.D. programs) who are making satisfactory progress are fully funded in some way. |
| Step 4 | If any step in the procedure cannot be completed due to lack of funds, try to ensure that the funds are distributed as equally and equitably as possible among the students defined as being included for consideration at that step. |
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Principle 1:

Available funds are to be distributed in such a way as to ensure that, to the extent possible, Ph.D. students, who are either newly admitted or are making satisfactory progress toward degree completion and are to be within their first 12 quarters as a Linguistics graduate student at UC Davis, have at least the amount of funding as to be in the funding position of a California resident with 3 quarters of TA or GSR support. Only international students will be considered for non-resident tuition support beyond the first year as a graduate student at UC Davis. Any student for whom at least this amount of support from ANY SOURCE is procured is to be considered covered by this Principle.

Principle 2:

Remaining available funds are to be distributed in such a way as to ensure that, to the extent possible, continuing Ph.D. students, who are making satisfactory progress toward degree completion and are to be within their first 15 quarters as a Linguistics graduate student at UC Davis or were enrolled in the M.A. program in Linguistics for at least 3 quarters at UC Davis prior to enrollment in the Ph.D. program and are to be in their first 12 quarters as a Ph.D. student, have at least the amount of funding as to be in the position of a student with 3 quarters of TA or GSR support. Any student for whom at least this amount of support from ANY SOURCE is procured is to be considered covered by this Principle.

Principle 3:

Remaining available funds are to be distributed among Linguistics graduate students who are either newly admitted or are making satisfactory progress toward degree completion in such a way as to ensure that, to the extent possible, they have at least the amount of funding as to be in the position of a student with 3 quarters of TA or GSR support. Any student for whom at least this amount of support from ANY SOURCE is procured is to be considered covered by this Principle.

Principle 4:

All funds are to be restricted to students meeting any minimal qualifications associated with particular positions or awards. A lower ranked Principle may take priority over a higher one, in order to satisfy this Principle.

Principle 5:

If it is only possible to partially meet the funding goals of any of these Principles, funds are to be distributed as evenly and equitably as possible, taking into account such factors as relative degree of satisfactory progress toward meeting degree requirements, amount of previous funding, and degree of fit between student qualifications and duties or requirements associated with available funds.

Principle 6:

The Admissions Committee is to solicit information from students concerning preferences as to kinds of funding and will take this information into account when possible. However, the granting of funds is not necessarily to be constrained by preferences concerning either type of award or appointment or specific requirements associated with any award or appointment. Students who are offered funds in a way consistent with these Principles are to be considered to be in the funding position of a student covered by these Principles, irrespective of any decision concerning the acceptance of such funds. Students who, because of expected non-enrollment or any other kind of unavailability, decide not to accept TA or GSR funds, which are what are mostly available and which entail enrollment and possibly in-residence status, should not expect that any other kind of funding will be offered.

Principle 7:

Exceptions to Principles 1–6 will be exercised in such cases as any applicable state or federal laws, any policies of the University, or any stipulations in any binding contract mandate such, and may be exercised when EXTRAORDINARY circumstances of particular students warrant such.