



POLICY ON GRADUATE STUDENT SUPPORT (rev. 6/2003)

All students who are admitted to graduate study in the Department of Molecular and Cell Biology should complete the Ph.D. degree in five and a half academic years. During that time, a student is guaranteed support at the MCB stipend level, plus payment of tuition, fees and health insurance, as long as good standing in the MCB program is maintained. Good standing is defined as a minimum GPA of 3.0 and no more than two Incomplete grades. Students admitted to the regular MCB graduate program, and who elect to perform their dissertation research in the laboratory of faculty formally affiliated with MCB, will be supported for two years by MCB Department funds or by extramural fellowships. For the subsequent years, the students will be supported by the research grants of the thesis mentor. Support of students who enter through and wish to obtain a Ph.D. in Molecular and Cell Biology, but who elect to carry out their dissertation research in the laboratory of a non-MCB faculty member, will become the financial responsibility of the thesis mentor beginning July 1 following their first year.

The annual stipend level is set each year by the Council of the Chair and Division Heads (CCDH) based on recommendations from the Graduate Affairs Committee (GAC) and payment of stipend is administered by the Graduate Affairs Office (GAO). All students who are U.S. citizens or permanent residents and not residents of California should apply for California residency in May of their first year to eliminate the assessment of non-resident tuition. Effective Fall 2000, students who fail to make a good-faith effort to obtain California residency by the beginning of their second year will be directly responsible for the additional non-resident fees. For international students, non-resident tuition will be covered for five and a half years by MCB Department funds or, in the case of either Departmental Direct Admit or Sponsored Direct Admit students, by the faculty mentor. International students who exceed five and one-half years thus exceeding the tuition offset time frame will have their non-resident tuition paid for by their mentor.

All students are expected to have passed their Qualifying Examination no later than the fourth semester, and to be advanced to candidacy for the doctoral degree by August 1 of the same year. Completion of this portion of the graduate program allows international students to become eligible for reduced non-resident tuition reducing the cost of the student to the Faculty Mentor.

Funding for students who are approved by their thesis committee to extend completion of their Ph.D. to the end of the sixth year will automatically have their funding extended. Extensions and funding beyond the May filing date of the sixth year require the approval of the Graduate Affairs Committee. Please refer to the Time To Degree policy for more information regarding the extension requests beyond the sixth year.

International students are allowed only three years of reduced Non-Resident Tuition.