

PhD in Public Health Sciences

Fellowships, Funding, and Benefits

Please expand the sections below for information about this program's financial policies and practices.

Stipend

All School of Public Health PhD Students receive a monthly stipend beginning in August of the first academic year of full-time enrollment. As of the 2026-27 academic year, the minimum 12-month stipend is \$37,853. The stipend amount is detailed in the admission offer letter for each first-year admitted student. Stipends are eligible for renewal for a maximum period of five years for full-time enrolled students making satisfactory progress in the PhD program.

Stipends support full-time program-related activities, including coursework, practica, qualifying exams, dissertation research, as well as service to the SPH. Service typically takes the form of contributing no more than 20 hours per week on SPH faculty research that aligns with and achieves the student's training goals. Students are admitted under a primary faculty mentor and will conduct some of their mentored research within that faculty member's lab. Students have the opportunity to work with other faculty members through their teaching and research practicum courses.

The PHS program uses a shared funding model to cover student stipends. Student stipends are funded through a variety of sources, examples of which include the following:

- Faculty funding provided by the primary mentor
- Fellowships and grant funding secured by the student (e.g., NIH F31)
- Institutional training grants (e.g., NIH T32, NSF NRT)
- University fellowships (e.g., Ann W. and Spencer T. Olin-Chancellor's Fellowship, McDonnell International Scholars Academy Fellowships, Ministry of Education (MOE) Fellowship)

The SPH will provide additional stipend support for students admitted to the program on institutional training grants and university fellowships that fall below the minimum stipend amount or the maximum number of years. For instance, the school will cover any annual stipend cap gap, which is the difference between the funder's standard stipend and WashU's support level. Likewise, the school will be responsible for the remaining years of the stipend for fellowships that cover only two years (e.g., NIH/NSF fellowships) or four years (e.g., McDonnell Scholars).

Students who receive additional grants or fellowships should provide their award letters to the Program Manager to ensure that records are updated and stipends are funded using the appropriate sources.

Tuition and Fees

The maximum tuition fee is the equivalent of 9 semester credits. Students who enroll for 9 or more credits per semester are automatically regarded as full-time students and are charged a flat full-time rate. Students must enroll in at least 9 credits of coursework or the Doctoral Research course to maintain full-time status. Failure to register risks satisfactory academic progress and university benefits. *To avoid a gap in insurance coverage during the summer, students must be sure to enroll in 9 credits or in the full-time Doctoral Research course by July 31. The tuition rate and fees are subject to annual change; however, School of Public Health doctoral students receive full tuition remission for these charges.* **Note:** Students who do not register for at least 9 credits or the Doctoral Research course by the add/drop deadline each semester could lose university benefits, visa status, and even be required to take a semester of leave.

Tuition Remission

The School of Public Health provides tuition remission for the length of the student's program as long as academic progress is being made. To be eligible for tuition remission, courses must be taken at the graduate level. These include most School of Public Health, Brown School, and School of Medicine courses and skill labs as well as courses numbered in the 5000s and above in other Schools. Courses offered through WashU Continuing and Professional Studies are non-remissible, and School of Public Health students cannot audit these courses.

Note: Tuition remission for WashU graduate courses outside of the School of Public Health only covers courses taken in the fall and spring semesters. Summer courses must be School of Public Health courses to be eligible for tuition remission.

Students wishing to enroll in courses outside of these parameters and receive tuition remission must submit a justification of the relevancy of these courses to their program with approval from their advisor to the Program Director. Likewise, doctoral students should discuss and receive permission from the program in advance if seeking remission for the cost of educational or training opportunities besides courses (e.g., summer institutes, professional development, external trainings, unrelated master's degrees). Tuition remission is not guaranteed for non-program-related coursework. Students pursuing a certificate or an unrelated master's degree in addition to their PhD must consult the Program Director and their advisor about credit sharing between programs.

Health Insurance

All full-time students on the Danforth Campus are charged a mandatory health fee that gives them access to the Student Health Center. In addition, they must either enroll in the student health insurance plan or present proof of comparable coverage. International students are not allowed to waive health insurance. Both the health fee and the health insurance premium are subject to annual change.

The School of Public Health fully covers the costs of the mandatory health fee, student health insurance, and the optional dental insurance fees for the student. Spouses and dependents may also be covered for an additional fee. Students receiving special fellowship support may have different arrangements for covering their health fees and insurance. Information about healthcare coverage can be found on the Student Health Center – Danforth Campus website. Students should consult their Program Manager with specific questions.

The Student Health Center, located in the Nathan Dardick House (lower level) at the corner of Shepley Drive and Big Bend Boulevard, serves all full-time students and their spouses/domestic partners. Full-time students are automatically enrolled in the student health insurance plan upon completion of registration each semester. Failure to register in courses on time jeopardizes full-time student status and health insurance coverage.

Dental Insurance

Students interested in enrolling in the optional dental insurance plan must be enrolled in the student health insurance plan. The School of Public Health fully covers the dental insurance premium for the student. Students may also enroll their spouse and/or dependents but will be responsible for paying those fees on their own. Students may elect to opt out of the dental coverage by contacting studentinsurance@wustl.edu. Once the student has requested to opt out of the insurance at the time of the deadline listed on the student health service website, their student account charge will be reversed within 7 working days. Dental benefits can be found on the UnitedHealthcare Student Resources website.

Notes:

1. Students will only be eligible to remain on the dental plan if they are on the medical plan. If a student waives the medical plan, they are not eligible to remain on the dental plan.
2. Students may enroll dependents on the dental plan by contacting UHC directly. The student must be on the dental plan in order to enroll their dependents. The stipend *does not* cover the additional cost of dependents.
3. The stipend does not include vision insurance. Students may enroll in vision insurance directly through UHC, but they will be responsible for those fees.

Part-Time Employment

If a full-time supported doctoral student wishes to accept part-time employment within Washington University or outside of the university, the following guidelines must be followed. The Internal Revenue Service, the Washington University Human Resources Office, and U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services all make important distinctions between students and employees. These guidelines are designed to assist doctoral students in retaining their status as students.

School of Public Health doctoral students receiving stipends or fellowships are allowed a maximum of 10 hours per week on average of additional part-time employment during the fall and spring semesters while maintaining their status as a full-time student.

Students can work up to 20 hours per week, on average, during the summer. International students should consult with the Office for International Students & Scholars regarding requirements, and all students must consult and receive approval from their advisor and Program Director in order to accept an additional position outside of the stipend or fellowship. Fully supported students engaged in part-time employment may have a reduction to — or even cessation of — their stipend from the program.

School of Public Health students *not* receiving stipends or fellowships and who have yet to complete PhD requirements, must enroll in Doctoral Research. Enrollment in Doctoral Research confers full-time student status and continues student access to health insurance, university resources, and loan forbearance (consult Enrollment Extension and In-Absentia Enrollment). Unfunded continuing students may work up to 20 hours per week on average throughout the year if approved by their faculty advisor and Program Director. The request for outside employment may be denied for any reason related to research or academic progress. If approved, the student must abide by all applicable university, IRS, and immigration policies. The student also must keep their advisor and Program Director informed of all activities. PhD students who are not registered or non-compliant with the above policies may find themselves in a part-time status and could be in jeopardy of the loss of certain benefits or be in violation of their visa status. Part-time enrollments will be permitted only in extraordinary circumstances.

PhD Student Taxes

The Internal Revenue Service expects fellowship students to make quarterly estimated tax payments because the university does not withhold federal taxes or Social Security payments from non-work-related fellowships. Failure to make quarterly tax payments and/or to file a tax return could result in penalties. Visit the IRS website to receive necessary forms.

International Students and Taxes

International students will need to be informed about U.S. federal tax as nonresident aliens, if they are new to the United States. For more information about tax regulations for international students, please visit the Taxes in the U.S. page of the Office for International Students & Scholars website.

IRS laws and regulations require that the university apply special tax withholding and reporting regulations to all payments made to those individuals who are treated under U.S. tax laws as "nonresident aliens." The department requesting the payment to the individual is responsible for the collection of all required information; the Office of International Students and Scholars is responsible for analyzing the required information and making any U.S. residency or tax withholding determinations. The student should make arrangements to obtain a social security number (SSN) or an individual tax identification number (ITIN) as soon as possible. The department should assist the student with this process as needed.

Child Daycare Subsidy

The purpose of the Child Daycare Subsidy, which is sponsored by WashU, is to help the families of PhD students meet the costs of child daycare while the students pursue their studies. The amount of child daycare subsidy awarded to eligible applicants depends on their financial need, the number of children they have enrolled in child daycare facilities, their child daycare expenses, and available funding.

Requirements for Eligibility

- Be enrolled full-time in a WashU PhD degree program at the start of the award period.
- Be the parent of a child under the age of 5, a child between 5 and 6 years old who is currently ineligible to attend kindergarten due to their date of birth, or a child with special needs under the age of 19.
- Incur child daycare expenses from a facility, center, or provider.
- Apply for any available scholarships and aid at their chosen provider before applying for the Washington University child daycare subsidy.
- Be making satisfactory academic progress, as defined by their school/program.
- Utilize child daycare services because you are a single student or, if you are married or have a partner, because your spouse or partner is either a student (enrolled full time in an undergraduate or graduate degree program) or employed outside the home for a minimum of 20 hours per week. You will be asked to attest to your spouse's or partner's employment or student status.
- Complete the daycare subsidy application by the deadline for each semester.

Child Daycare Subsidy Process

PhD students interested in receiving the child daycare subsidy will complete a centralized application form found on the Office of the Provost website each fall and spring semester. The subsidy is not available during the summer term. Applications will route to the appropriate representative in the student's selected school based on information communicated to Office of the Provost staff. A financial administrator from each school/program will be responsible for reviewing the application to ensure the student meets the stated criteria. Eligible students will receive subsidy payments in the same format as they receive their stipend payments.

The application will request the initial information necessary to make most determinations. On occasion, school administrators may need to request supplemental information from the student in order to make a determination regarding eligibility. Questions not addressed in this document may be posed to the Vice Provost for Graduate Education/Office of the Provost for clarification.

The Office of the Provost will be responsible for gathering and maintaining data for reporting purposes. Schools are requested to keep track of requests and payouts.

As students are approved for the subsidy, the school is responsible for notifying the student of their award and ensuring the payout. The subsidy will be paid as a lump sum. Students' applications must be received by the end of the term in which they are requesting the subsidy.

Award amounts are available in the Frequently Asked Questions section of the Child Daycare Subsidy webpage.

Professional Development Funds

Full-time PhD students (who are taking courses or registered for Doctoral Research) may apply for up to \$1,000 in reimbursement for professional development per year. Funds are available beginning July 1, and reimbursement requests must be submitted to the Program Manager by June 1. Unused funds do not roll over. Requests for reimbursement should be submitted to the Program Manager within 15 days of purchase or travel dates.

For a list of approved items and instructions for reimbursement, consult the SPH Guide to Professional Development Funds.

Note: Program Managers/Directors/School of Public Health Finance staff reserve the right to deny professional development fund requests. A student's request is not fully approved by the PhD Program until that student asks for permission from the Program Manager and the Program Manager responds with an approval email. If the student is funded through a T32 grant, they should work with Stacey McCrary (stacey.mccrary@wustl.edu) regarding additional guidelines and restrictions.

SPH PhD Fellowship Guidelines

School of Public Health and University Fellowships Awarded at Admission

All School of Public Health PhD Students receive an annual School of Public Health Fellowship in the form of a monthly stipend beginning the first academic year of full-time enrollment. The stipend amount is detailed in the admission offer letter for each first-year admitted student. Stipends are eligible for renewal for a maximum period of five years for full-time enrolled students making satisfactory progress in the PhD program.

Institutional Training Grant Awards and Fellowships

The School of Public Health and Washington University offer additional awards and fellowships to students meeting specific eligibility criteria. Such awards and fellowships are designed to provide specialized training in a specific area of research and/or to increase the diversity

of the future workforce trained in a particular area. These awards may differ in amount and maximum years of funding from the standard School of Public Health Fellowship. An award made at admission by the university either partially or fully replaces the School of Public Health Fellowship as detailed in the admission letter (or in a separate subsequent fellowship letter that supersedes the School of Public Health admission offer letter).

Such grants/fellowships may have separate application processes, terms, and training or other requirements. Examples of Institutional Training Grant Awards and Fellowships awarded in recent years have come from such sources as the National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH T32), the National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA TranSTAR T32), the Buder Fellowship, the Ann W. and Spencer T. Olin-Chancellor's Fellowship, the McDonnell International Scholars Academy Fellowships, and the Ministry of Education (MOE) Fellowship.

Students are strongly encouraged to consult the respective Washington University Training Grant (T32) Director or other fellowship directors for any questions or concerns regarding eligibility criteria, application deadlines, additional work restrictions, restrictions regarding holding other stipends/fellowships, and the specific terms of such grants and awards prior to acceptance of these awards.

Pre-Dissertation and Dissertation Funding

Students entering the dissertation phase of their studies are eligible to apply for special funding designed to assist them with expenses related to their writing and research.

Public and private (extramural) dissertation grants (in varying amounts) are available to students through a competitive process. Students are encouraged to apply for extramural funding (i.e., funding from outside entities) throughout their doctoral program in alignment with their training goals to support their pre-dissertation and dissertation scholarship and research.

- All students must make an appointment with the Research Development Office several months before attempting to apply for one of these grant awards.
- To make an appointment or to ask any questions, contact the Director of the Research Development Office.

Examples of extramural pre-dissertation/dissertation funding awarded in recent years include the NIH F31 grant, the National Institute of Justice Dissertation Fellowship, the Council on Social Work Education Minority Fellowship Award, the Doris Duke Foundation Award, the AGE-SW, U.S. Fulbright awards, Fahs-Beck awards, and American Cancer Society awards. Students can also apply for outside travel awards from national and professional organizations to support attendance/participation at conferences or specialized training institutes. Students who successfully compete and receive such awards may simultaneously receive the School of Public Health Fellowship (described above). Students on internal School of Public Health and university-level fellowships must check with the Fellowship Director to determine any restrictions related to applying for and receiving such extramural funds.

Housing/Transportation Resources

Doctoral education often means that students are relocating to St. Louis for their degrees. There are a number of resources offered by the university around housing, transportation, and supports for both domestic and international students. All students are eligible for a free UPass, which covers universal rail and bus transportation across the St. Louis area. The Graduate Center maintains a Resources page that links to many of the resources named above.