Q1. How much is the annual stipend?
A1. The Graduate Research Fellowship stipend is currently $32,000 for a 12-month tenure period, prorated monthly at $2,666.67 and $2,666.66 every 3rd month. You will receive monthly payments to your BAR account during the academic year. Your summer stipend of $8,000 will be paid to your BAR account in one lump sum at the end of June. You are required to establish a Bruin Direct account (www.grad.ucla.edu/gss/library/bdintro.htm), which will receive your funds electronically and quicker than if you do not have a Bruin Direct account (the alternative is snail mail to the address on file with the Registrar’s Office).

You will also receive an institutional allowance (aka cost-of-education allowance) of $12,000. This institutional allowance is applied to fees. Your school/department/program must fund the difference between the institutional allowance and actual fees, including professional school fees and non-resident tuition. By accepting the NSF, Graduate Division promises not to let students pay for the difference between the cost of education allowance provided and the fees and tuition currently in place. The department may not pay the student a stipend and request for the student to pay the balance of fees from the awarded stipend.

Q2. How many years of support do I get?
A2. All awards are for a maximum of three years usable over a five-year period (i.e., two years may be put on reserve at any time during the five-year period).

Q3. How much money goes towards my tuition and fees?
A3. The money that goes to your tuition and fees is known as the cost-of-education allowance. Currently, $12,000 per tenure year goes to your tuition and fees.

Q4. After the cost of education allowance is applied, who pays the remaining balance on my BAR account?
A4. Your standard fees are covered, as is NRT for your first year only, up to the maximum amount of the cost-of-education allowance. Your school/department/program must fund the difference between the cost-of-education allowance and actual fees, including professional school fees and non-resident tuition. The department may not pay the student a stipend and request for the student to pay the balance of fees from the awarded stipend.

Q5. How are my fees paid?
A5. Student Accounting will know that you are receiving an extramural fellowship that pays your fees. You do not have to do or submit any additional documentation for fee payment. As long as you declare tenure for the upcoming academic year by May 1, Financial Services will be notified regarding your fees.

As described in the next Q&A, your January stipend payment will be made in early January, after fees are due. However, you will not be assessed any late charges, because the system knows you are receiving a fee payment fellowship.

Q6. How is the stipend disbursed to fellows?
A6. If you have set up a Bruin Direct account (www.grad.ucla.edu/gss/library/bdintro.htm), your money will be wired to your account. You are encouraged to establish a Bruin Direct account, which will receive your funds electronically and quicker than if you do not have a Bruin Direct account (the alternative is snail mail to the address on file with the Registrar’s Office). The Bruin Direct account disburses fellowship and financial aid payments; it is not connected to payroll.

Your summer payment will be paid in a lump sum toward the end of June or early July. The academic-year payments will be made monthly, October through June. You will receive the monthly payments toward the end of
the preceding month. For example, your October payment will be made in late September. Your January payment will be an exception to this disbursement: That payment will be made in early January.

**Q7. Whom do I contact if I have a question about the disbursement of my payments?**  
**A7.** The Financial Services Office, 1228 Murphy Hall, 310-825-1025, gdsupport@grad.ucla.edu.

**Q8. What is the activities report, and when is it due?**  
**A8.** Each year you are a fellow, you must submit online at FastLane (https://www.fastlane.nsf.gov/index.jsp) a brief report summarizing your accomplishments and experiences during the past year. These reports are due before declaring tenure for the next year. Please include information relevant to your research or coursework, such as papers, exhibitions, publications, conferences, etc. It is important to fill this out because NSF uses this to determine the success of the program, and consequently, future funding. Your faculty mentor must sign into Fastlane to approve your activities report. Your mentor’s approval must be submitted so you can declare tenure by May 1.

**Q9. Can I apply for additional funding?**  
**A9.** The fellowship does not provide allowances for special student needs, such as research expenses, travel to scientific conferences, travel to employment sites, computers, books and publications, fieldwork expenses, special study, and the like except as described in answer 16. Fellows may request support from other sources such as NSF’s Graduate Research Opportunities Worldwide (GROW).

NSF GRFP Fellowships cannot be concurrently accepted or combined with another US Government Federal Fellowship, irrespective of the Fellow’s Tenure Status.

**Q10. How do I renew my fellowship for next year?**  
**A10.** By May 1, you must submit online at FastLane (https://www.fastlane.nsf.gov/index.jsp) a Declaration to Utilize, Reserve or Terminate a Subsequent Year of a 3-year Graduate Fellowship Award for the purpose of declaring whether you will utilize or reserve your fellowship for the following year. All fellows on reserve MUST submit this form via the Graduate Fellowship Administration System on FastLane each year. Failure to declare your intent at this time results in your fellowship being considered as terminated. Terminated fellowships will not be reinstated.

**Q11. How do I transfer my fellowship to another institution?**  
**A11.** If you wish to transfer from one institution to another during a fellowship year, you must submit online at FastLane (https://www.fastlane.nsf.gov/index.jsp) a Tenure Change request to NSF (which must be verified by the Coordinating Official in 1228 Murphy Hall) as well as evidence of acceptance to the new institution.

**Q12. How do I get approved for part-time work?**  
**A12.** Fellows may engage in employment related to academic activity (e.g., GSR and TA appointments). Per Graduate Division’s policy, the standard allowable appointment percentage is at 25%, or 10 hours per week. For appointments over 25%, you must work with your department’s Student Affairs Officer of Graduate Advisor to submit an exception request to the Fellows Services Office.

**Q13. Can I have another fellowship while I have the NSF?**  
**A13.** It depends upon the source of the other fellowship and the maximum stipend limit set by the Graduate Division. NSF does not allow fellows to concurrently accept federal funding, but exceptions include: Veteran Benefits, ROTC Training Allowance, and Fulbright IIE Study/Research Abroad Grants.

For the Graduate Division maximum stipend limit, ask your department Student Affairs Officer/Staff Graduate Advisor to contact the workgroup representative for your department in the Financial Services Office, 1228 Murphy Hall.

**Q14. Must the student refund the fellowship if the student withdraws from school without completing their course of study?**  
**A14.** No. But no further funding will be distributed after the student ends his/her enrollment.
Q15. Is the NSF fellowship subject to Federal income tax?
A15. You bear the responsibility of paying any tax, domestic or foreign, when due. Additionally, you are responsible for filing all proper tax forms. See IRS Publication 970, Scholarships and Fellowships at http://www.irs.gov.

Other useful websites: www.1098-t.com and www.vita.bol

Q16. Can I go abroad? Will my fellowship fund my trip?
A16. NSF encourages fellows to apply for other NSF opportunities announced through “Dear Colleague” emails. One such opportunity is the Graduate Research Opportunities Worldwide (GROW) which provides $5,000 from NSF and living expenses from an organization in the host country.

Q17. What is our NSF grant number?
A17. DGE-1144087