

September 8, 2009

SNRE Funding Plan – Under Continuous Enrollment

STATEMENT OF COMMITMENT:

The below information pertains to *candidates* enrolled in an SNRE PhD program. Pre-candidates are typically registered full-time prior to achieving candidacy status. Those pre-candidates who have completed their coursework yet have not achieved candidacy status and do not have funding from a GSI, GSRA, or other similar position, have the option of registering for NRE 990 for the number of credits in proportion to their effort expended on their course of study (a minimum of one credit is required), or taking a personal leave of absence.¹

A. Students entering the SNRE PhD Program prior to Fall 2010

1. Students without a full-funding commitment

Students who were admitted into the SNRE PhD program without a commitment of full-funding are strongly encouraged to pursue all employment and fellowship opportunities that would provide them with a stipend, medical benefits, and tuition waiver (GSI and GSRA positions, as well as research fellowship positions). SNRE will assist students in finding such opportunities, to the best of our ability. For those students in good standing², who are unsuccessful at securing GSI, GSRA, and fellowship opportunities, SNRE will guarantee the provision of a tuition fellowship for up to four terms. Based on an evaluation of past enrollment history and time to degree information, this level of support will be sufficient for SNRE students. However, under unusual circumstances, students who exceed the anticipated time period and do not have alternative funding via a GSI or GSRA position, can apply to the Associate Dean for Academic Affairs for the provision of additional semesters of tuition fellowship support.

2. Students with a full-funding commitment

Students who were admitted into the SNRE PhD program with a commitment for full funding are expected to pursue all employment and fellowship opportunities that would provide them with a stipend, medical benefits, and tuition waiver (GSI and GSRA positions, as well as research fellowship positions). SNRE will assist students in funding such opportunities, to the best of our ability. For those students in good standing², who are unsuccessful at securing GSI, GSRA, and fellowship opportunities, SNRE has guaranteed the payment of stipend, medical benefits, and tuition waiver for up to five years. It is expected that students admitted with a full-funding commitment complete the requirements for their PhD by the end of this five year time period. Under unusual circumstances, students who exceed the five year time period and do not have alternative funding via a GSI or GSRA

¹ A personal leave of absence is allowed under the continuous enrollment policy for a maximum of one term, one time, during a student's entire pursuit of their doctoral degree (i.e., throughout pre-candidacy and candidacy).

²For guidance on "good standing", students should refer to the SNRE PhD student handbook (<http://www.snre.umich.edu/node/7618/>), specifically the general timeline, satisfactory progress, and annual report sections.

position, can apply to the Associate Dean for Academic Affairs for the provision of a tuition fellowship.

- B. Students entering the SNRE PhD Program Fall 2010 and later
Students who were admitted into the SNRE PhD program after the continuous enrollment program was implemented would also have a commitment for full funding and are expected to pursue all employment and fellowship opportunities that would provide them with a stipend, medical benefits, and tuition waiver (GSI and GSRA positions, as well as research fellowship positions). SNRE will assist students in funding such opportunities, to the best of our ability. For those students in good standing², who are unsuccessful at securing GSI, GSRA, and fellowship opportunities, SNRE has guaranteed the payment of stipend, medical benefits, and tuition waiver for up to five years. Under unusual circumstances, students who exceed the five year time period and do not have alternative funding via a GSI or GSRA position, can apply to the Associate Dean for Academic Affairs for the provision of a tuition fellowship.
- C. Students in Individualized Interdepartmental Programs (IIDP's) where SNRE is one field in the program
Students in an IIDP will be supported as students identified above, except that the provision of a tuition fellowship will be split equally with the other Schools and Colleges represented in the student's IIDP.

NOTIFICATION AND GRACE PERIOD

Students are required to complete an annual report at the end of each academic year (by May 31 of each year) to receive certification that they are making satisfactory progress.³ At the beginning of each academic year, the Office of Academic Programs sends each student a progress letter reflecting their certification of satisfactory progress and identifying any outstanding milestones, gaps, or other areas of concern, as appropriate. If a student is not making satisfactory progress, it will be clearly articulated in this letter as will the steps a student will need to take to return to good standing. Students will have the rest of the term in which they were notified and one additional term to get into good standing without losing eligibility to receive a tuition fellowship. However, if a student has not achieved good standing by the end of these two terms (the term in which they received notification plus one additional), they will not be eligible for a tuition fellowship until they return to good standing.

LEAVES OF ABSENCE

Approved leaves of absence (personal, medical, military – **NEED TO FOOTNOTE THE POLICY ON THESE ONCE IT IS AVAILABLE**) under the continuous enrollment policy will not count toward a student's guaranteed level of support – whether for full funding or maximum terms of tuition fellowships.

³ See SNRE PhD Handbook (<http://www.snre.umich.edu/node/7618/#phdsatis>)