

GRADUATE FUNDING: FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS



How many funding appointments are offered to incoming students each year?

This number varies depending upon T.A. vacancies and fellowship resources in a given year. Normally, we are able to offer about **20-30 funded positions** to incoming students per year. To see the most recent distribution of appointments, check out the ***Graduate Application Statistics*** on our Graduate Admissions page.

How can I increase my chances of being offered a funding appointment?

Start a relationship with your preferred faculty member(s). Send an email to introduce yourself and explain your interest in UW-Madison. Set up a meeting and/or sample lesson, and inquire about funding opportunities in the area. In your Statement of Purpose, express your desire for funding and describe your qualifications. Most importantly, have a stellar application and, if applicable, play an excellent audition.

If I am offered funding, am I guaranteed funding in the future?

MOST funding appointments come with multi-year guarantees (2 years for a Master's degree, 3-4 years for a Doctoral degree). You may be offered a multi-year guarantee composed of varying appointments (TA, Fellow) and you should be aware that stipends and duties vary greatly among the three. **SOME** incoming students are offered 1-year appointments with **NO** guarantee of future funding, depending on the needs and resources of faculty in each area.

If I am **NOT** offered funding as an incoming student, will I be eligible next year?

Yes, all current students are eligible for funding as long as they are enrolled in graduate-level courses and are in good academic standing. Funding appointments are generally offered to incoming students, but, depending on the pool of applicants and the unique needs of the area, you may be offered funding for your second or third year.

What about student loans and other financial aid?

The School of Music does not process student loans or financial aid. We only offer teaching assistantships and fellowships, as well as a few small scholarships (\$1,000 – \$5,000) applied as a credit to your tuition account. To receive major financial aid or student loans, you will need to complete the FAFSA process through the federal government. We are not involved in this process, and we make our decisions independently of any other aid you may receive.