

FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

Assistantships

The School of Art and Design offers graduate assistantship employment opportunities beginning the first semester of attendance, up to six semesters when students maintain good academic standing* and effectively fulfill their assigned duties.

Employment as a Graduate Assistant

- Graduate Assistants are employees of ECU and must complete the paperwork and training required of all ECU employees (e.g. filing paperwork with HR to be hired, completing online trainings, etc.) prior to the start of their contract. Failure to file required paperwork or complete trainings on time will result in the loss of employment as a Graduate Assistant.
- Supervisors are required to provide evaluations of assistants' performance. Poor performance of graduate assistantship duties can result in the loss of future assistantships.
- Each MFA candidate receives a contract prior to the start of the semester that details their assistantship assignment(s).
- Graduate Assistants do not receive benefits (e.g. insurance) or accumulate or use sick or vacation leave.

Assignments

- SoAD Graduate Assistants support teaching and learning in studios, Art Histories/Appreciation courses, maintenance and access to facilities and equipment, administrative projects, etc. For example, a block of time may be devoted to monitoring undergraduate studios, working on special projects, teaching, assisting faculty with teaching, or a combination of these. Assignments may vary from semester to semester.
- Assistantships teaching undergraduate ART courses as instructor of record may be awarded once MFA candidates complete 18 hours** of graduate-level ART coursework, including ART 6900: Art and Design Pedagogy. Note that ARTH coursework does not count toward the 18-hour requirement since art history (ARTH) is a different discipline. Upon meeting these requirements, MFA candidates may teach undergraduate courses.
- A 20-hour/week assistantship is full-time (0.50 FTE) for graduate students.
- Assistantship position values vary in increments of 5-hour/week (0.125 FTE) assignments.
- To fulfill the school's needs, the Graduate Program Director, in consultation with the SoAD Director and the Graduate Committee Chair, may sometimes assign up to 25 hours/week to an eligible MFA candidate, provided that the student has effectively performed previous Graduate Assistant duties and is willing to accept additional assignments.
- International students are permitted to work a maximum of 20 hours per week in Fall/Spring semesters except for summer sessions, during which they may work up to 25 hours per week if funding is available.

- Based on funding, Summer I assistantships that support the School's summer operations may be available. Assignment and allocation of Summer I assistantships are based on the School's needs. The Graduate Program Director consults with the Director and Graduate Committee Chair to determine Summer I assignments based on School needs and graduate students' skills.
- Summer II assistantships are not available.
- Students may decline an assignment, which will reduce their assistantship assignment and compensation.

Compensation

- SoAD Graduate Assistantships are compensated at \$12,000*** per academic year (Fall \$6,000 and Spring \$6,000) for a full-time assistantship for 20 hours of work per week each semester.
- Each 5-hour/week (0.125 FTE) assistantship assignment increment is valued at \$1,500.

Assistantship Responsibilities

- Graduate Assistants are responsible for contacting their assistantship supervisor to discuss their assignment(s), expectations, and the schedule for their duties.
- If supervisors fail to respond to emails or requests for meetings, please notify the Graduate Program Director.

ECU Graduate Program Directors and Coordinators Handbook

* 9.1. Academic standing is a combination of maintaining a minimum level of academic performance in coursework (**GPA 3.0**) and making adequate progress toward meeting their degree requirements as determined by their unit guidelines, faculty advisor or research mentor, and the unit's Graduate Program Director.

** 9.2.1. GTA Responsibilities: The Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS) requires that GTAs accumulate a minimum of **18 semester credit hours** of graduate coursework in the field of instruction to be solely responsible for instructional content and grading.

*** 9.1. Graduate Assistantships and Fellowships: Awards, Assignments, and Terminations: The monetary award of an assistantship varies with degree program. A full-time graduate assistantship (20 hours per week - fall and spring semesters) for a master's student will be worth a minimum of **\$9,000**

Scholarships

School of Art and Design scholarships for full-time students majoring in Art are awarded based on ability as reflected in the creative portfolio, academic excellence, and with some scholarships, need. Scholarships are contingent upon funding guidelines and the availability of funds.

The School of Art and Design scholarship application must be submitted online through ECUAward [<https://ecu.academicworks.com>]. This site can be accessed by signing on with your ECU credentials. On the Opportunities page, use "Art" and "Design" as keywords for search/filter, and SoAD scholarships will populate the list (except for non-SoAD opportunities that contain the same keywords in their description).

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Once you complete the general scholarship application, your application will automatically be Auto-Matched to opportunities where you meet the requirements.

The SoAD scholarships are Apply-To opportunities where you will submit additional materials such as a portfolio, image list, and written statement about your work.

The submission due date is January 15 for all scholarship awards.

STUDENT HEALTH INSURANCE PLAN

This section provides the specific steps you need to follow if you want to purchase the ECU provided Student Health Insurance Plan.

You can navigate through the portal [<https://studenthealth.ecu.edu/ship/>], or go directly to the enrollment form at [<http://studentbluenc.com/#/ecu/enroll/>]

1. Go to the SB portal:
2. Click "Enroll" at the top of the page.
3. Answer Eligibility questions.
4. Click the Blue box that says "Enroll Now"

Recent Update - Eligibility Information

Students may enroll in the Student Blue Plan as long as they meet the following requirements:

- Meet the applicable minimum semester-credit-hour thresholds (Graduate – three hours)
- Enrolled in a degree-seeking program

If you would like to enroll in the Student Blue insurance plan and the Student Health Insurance charge is not currently on your tuition statement, go to [<http://studentbluenc.com/#/ecu/enroll/>] to complete the enrollment form. Once your eligibility is verified, we will have the charge placed on your tuition account. Please allow 5-7 business days for all actions to take place.

Reminder: Students don't have to submit a waiver IF they do NOT meet the requirements and do NOT have the charge on their account.

OUT-OF-STATE TUITION REMISSION POLICY

Graduate faculty may recommend particular graduate applicants or graduate students for out-of-state tuition remissions, which cover the out-of-state portion of the student's tuition. The School of Art and Design Graduate Committee will evaluate their credentials and award the tuition remissions granted to the SoAD according to the following policy:

The awarding of graduate out-of-state tuition remissions is based on applications received by the February 1 priority deadline, a minimum undergraduate GPA of 3.0, and a portfolio determined as superior by faculty reviewers. If the number of qualified applicants exceeds the number of remissions allotted to the School of Art and Design, applicants will be ranked considering the quality of their portfolio, undergraduate grade point average, statement of intent, and the overall needs of the School of Art and Design.

Out-of-state tuition remissions shall be awarded for two consecutive semesters. The Graduate Committee may choose to extend the award on a semester basis not to exceed a total of four semesters (except for international students). Complete information about policies and funding of awards may be found on the Graduate School website, [<https://gradschool.ecu.edu/>].

A remission may be terminated, in writing, by the Graduate Program Director, on the recommendation of graduate faculty in the student's discipline area. The recommendation will be evaluated by the School of Art and Design Graduate Committee and forwarded to the School of Art and Design Director and the Dean of the Graduate School for approval.

Tuition Remissions

There are a limited number of out-of-state tuition remissions, which cover the out-of-state portion of the student's tuition for one academic year. The remissions are competitive, and the minimum criteria for eligibility are a 3.0 overall GPA (or 3.0 senior year) and a meritorious portfolio and application materials. Each concentration area nominates applicants, with the final decision made by the School of Art and Design Graduate Committee.

(priority application submitted by February 1 only)

Tuition and Fees information [<https://financialservices.ecu.edu/tuition-fees/>].

Establishing Residency

If a student chooses to gain North Carolina residency to qualify for in-state tuition, they may start their NC residency application process, after having lived in North Carolina for one year plus one day and no sooner. All applications for residency reclassification must be submitted to and processed through the North Carolina Residency Determination Service (RDS) system [<https://ncresidency.cfnc.org/>].

With this application, a Residency Certification Number (RCN) will be assigned, and the information will go over to Banner. Once RDS has determined a status, the student will be notified of their classification as in-state or out-of-state. For more information on the RDS system, visit [<https://ncresidency.cfnc.org/residencyInfo/>].