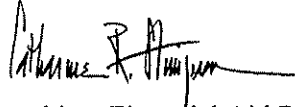


**NEW YORK UNIVERSITY**  
GRADUATE SCHOOL OF ARTS & SCIENCE

GRADUATE ENROLLMENT SERVICES

Date: July 27, 2009

To: New MacCracken Doctoral Students in the Graduate School of Arts and Science

From: Catharine R. Stimpson, GSAS Dean 

Re: Improvements to Your MacCracken Fellowship—Financial Aid Reform (FAR4)

It is my great pleasure to welcome you once again to the Graduate School of Arts and Science (GSAS) and to announce some exciting news that will affect your Henry Mitchell MacCracken Fellowship in positive ways. I am delighted to be able to tell you the news.

Since the establishment of the MacCracken financial aid program in 1992, the Graduate School has continuously sought to improve it. The goals of such reform have been and continue to be straightforward: to strengthen our ability to attract top doctoral candidates such as yourself; to lower attrition rates; to reduce time to degree; and to provide maximum flexibility to our departments to design financial aid packages that work best for their disciplines and for you, their students.

Earlier this summer, but after your admission to GSAS, the University administration agreed to authorize the next stage of reform. We call it “Financial Aid Reform 4,” or FAR4. It will be effective fall 2009, and will apply as you enter GSAS.

As you know, your MacCracken financial aid package consists of two parts. The first part is a scholarship to cover the tuition, registration, and services fees for your degree program as well as student health insurance. The second part is a stipend toward your expenses. In addition, you receive a one-time \$1,000 start-up stipend to help with the costs of beginning your studies at GSAS. These components remain just as they were described in your original MacCracken offer letter. However, with the implementation of FAR4, there are some significant improvements.

First, the stipend part of your financial aid package will now consist wholly of fellowship, or, in the case of the sciences and some social sciences, fellowship and/or research assistantship. The dollar amount will be exactly the same amount specified in your original offer letter.

Second, teaching will not be a condition of your receiving the financial aid outlined in your offer. We believe strongly in the value of teaching as part of a doctoral candidate’s professional development, especially for those seeking academic careers. As such, each program in GSAS has thought carefully about the appropriate level, type and timing of teaching experiences to best serve your professional development and to support your progress toward the degree. Under FAR4, if you choose to teach under the mentorship of your program, you will be compensated over and above your fellowship. Thus, you will have two sources of support as you work on your doctoral degree: your fellowship or research assistantship, and additional compensation as an Adjunct Instructor.

Third, health insurance premiums and fee remissions will continue for two additional years after the term of your initial MacCracken package is over (if you are still working on your dissertation). This is one year longer than described in your original financial aid package.



It is our impression that few, if any, graduate schools in the United States offer such financial aid packages, and we are glad that you are part of this innovation.

Now, for some more details about teaching. When you arrive on campus this fall, your department will advise you about teaching opportunities and begin preparing you for these opportunities through school-based and departmental-based training programs. The FAR4 framework allows your department to create the type and amount of teaching opportunities that are most relevant for you and also to determine the most advantageous timing for such teaching as you progress through the academic requirements of the doctoral degree. These plans vary considerably from department to department, with some departments suggesting that it is best to offer teaching opportunities early in a student's matriculation and others choosing to provide such opportunities later. In no case is the total amount of recommended teaching greater than would have been required in your original offer of MacCracken support. In most cases it is considerably less and, of course, it is not required for successful completion of the degree. Again, all teaching will provide increased financial support beyond your MacCracken stipend.

The implementation of FAR4 will also enable you, in consultation with your department, to manage your fellowship stipend support better. In many departments, you may choose to use the additional compensation you receive for teaching to reserve portions of your MacCracken stipend. You would then be able to draw upon these reserved funds in subsequent semesters, thus increasing the number of semesters you are supported or providing summer support. The same opportunity is available for external stipend support you may receive. This "fellowship reserve" program will begin no later than fall 2010 and full details will be provided during the coming academic year. FAR4 provides a great deal of flexibility and freedom, allowing you to manage your MacCracken fellowship stipend in a way that best supports your needs and your own pace of study.

We know that you may have questions, both about general policies and about your particular circumstances. We are developing more detailed policies and procedures over the summer and will share them with you when they are available. As departments plan for next year, GSAS will work with students on managing the individual circumstances of their MacCracken awards and teaching opportunities. If you have questions about FAR4 and your award, you may contact your department or you may email us at [gsas.admissions@nyu.edu](mailto:gsas.admissions@nyu.edu).

I look forward to welcoming you to campus this fall.