

Financial Aid Information

EECS Department, January 30, 2009

- **Research assistantships (RA)** are provided through sponsored research activities; the number available at a given time is dependent on the research activity within the College. Interested students are encouraged to discuss the availability of assistantships and potential research projects with the program director, department chairs, and faculty as soon as possible. **The best way to get an RA is to work with a professor on his/her research projects and make good progress. The he/she will give you an RA when funds become available.**
- **Teaching assistantships (TA)** are provided by individual departments to provide assistance with classroom and laboratory courses. Responsibilities can include conducting classroom recitation sessions, setting up laboratory experiments, tutoring students in class work, grading, monitoring tests, and related activities. For TA positions, students should contact the respective department chairs. **The department chair often relies on your advisor's recommendation to decide whether to offer you a TA.** *Note that TA jobs are also available in departments other than the EECS department.*
- All graduate teaching assistants who are international students are required to pass an **English Language Proficiency Examination**, which is administered by the University Testing Center. Students are expected to work a maximum of twenty hours per week on their assistantship assignments.
- Students obtain RA and TA jobs through three types of contacts: GA (Graduate Assistantship), TG (Tuition Grant), and HW (hourly work). A GA provides full-time tuition (9 credit hours) and a stipend (minimum \$3480 per semester for master's students and minimum \$3900 per semester for doctoral students). A GA contract requires a maximum of 20 hours of work per week. A TG provides full-time tuition (8 credit hours) or partial tuition (e.g., 4 credit hours). A TG contract requires a maximum of 10 hours of work per week. An HW contract pays the student by the hour (e.g., \$12 per hour).
- The ECE department spent \$430,000 on financial aid in the forms of GA, TG and HW in the 2007/2008 academic year, supporting 36 graduate students. This figure does not include financial support from professor's grants.
- The department offers a few GAs or TGs for new graduate students with extremely high GPA, TOEFL, and GRE scores upon recommendations from the faculty or the Graduate Program Committee.
- **Upon recommendations from their advisors, students can obtain GA, TG or HW after at least one semester when he/she shows excellent grades in course work or shows research potential in a research project.**