



Mead Witter School of Music

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON

Graduate Funding in the School of Music

Graduate students in the School of Music are primarily supported by tuition waiver-granting appointments in the form of an assistantship or fellowship. Graduate students may also receive tuition credit scholarships (\$1,000 - \$5,000) in lieu of a full graduate appointment.

Eligibility

If your application is submitted by December 1, you will automatically be considered for all of the funding appointments described on the next page. To be eligible for funding, performance applicants must complete a live audition.* Recipients of graduate appointments must enroll full-time and maintain a cumulative GPA of 3.25.

*For Fall 2022 admission, the general requirement of a live audition for funding eligibility has been waived due to the pandemic. All auditions will be held remotely with the exception of those for Conducting, the Wingra Wind Quintet, and the Wisconsin Brass Quintet.

Timeline

There is no extra application process for graduate funding. For certain positions, you will receive an invitation to submit a special letter of interest after you have been admitted. While initial funding offers are made in March, positions often open up throughout the spring.

Benefits

All graduate appointments provide eligibility for health insurance and a full tuition waiver for the duration of the guarantee. If you are offered a graduate appointment, your offer letter will contain detailed information regarding the rights and responsibilities associated with your position. Multi-year funding guarantees are possible based upon the availability of the funds and the desires of the student's area.

Last revised: October 1, 2021

Assistantships

Teaching Assistants manage sections, small courses, or lessons. They receive an office/studio space in the music building where they meet with students and assist faculty in administrative tasks. Project Assistants serve as members of faculty outreach ensembles.

FTE: 33.4% - 50%
Stipend: \$13,694 - \$20,500
Full tuition waiver, including summer
Segregated Fees not covered

Musicology & Theory

Awarded primarily to Musicology and Theory candidates, open to performance candidates as needed.

Piano & Voice

Awarded to Piano and Voice candidates who teach studio lessons and assist with the opera.

Conducting

Awarded to Conducting candidates.

Band

Awarded to candidates in Brass, Conducting, Music Education, Percussion, and Woodwinds who serve in all areas of the band program.

Graduate Quartet

Awarded to String candidates (violin, violin, viola, cello) who serve as string pedagogy assistants and perform chamber music.

Wingra Wind Quintet

Awarded to a Horn candidate.

Wisconsin Brass Quintet

Awarded to a Trumpet candidate.

Miscellaneous

Various assistantships throughout the School of Music based on available funds and faculty needs.

Fellowships

Fellowships are awarded to outstanding applicants who strengthen our program with their musical talents and academic excellence. Although fellows have no work obligations, they are expected to demonstrate leadership in the School of Music.

FTE: 100%
Stipend: \$22,909
Full tuition waiver, not including summer
Segregated Fees covered

Paul J. Collins Fellowship

Awarded to the best performers of the audition season. Each area of study nominates their best candidates, and decisions are made by a special committee of faculty.

Graduate School Fellowship

Awarded to outstanding candidates from all areas. Each area of study nominates their best candidates, and decisions are made by a committee of faculty.

Advanced Opportunity Fellowship

Special award for underrepresented students. Each area of study nominates their best candidates, and decisions are made by a committee of faculty.

Lorna Wendt Choral Fellowship

Awarded by the Choral faculty to one outstanding candidate for the Choral Conducting degree.

Margaret Winston Voice Fellowship

Awarded by the Voice faculty to one outstanding candidate for the Vocal Performance degree.

Leland A. Coon Musicology Fellowship

Awarded by the Musicology faculty to one or more outstanding candidates for the Musicology degree.

Frequently Asked Questions

What are my chances of receiving funding for my degree?

Funding is very competitive and depends primarily on your ranking within the area of study. Normally, we admit over 100 students and are able to offer about 20-30 funded positions. This number varies depending upon T.A. vacancies and fellowship resources in a given year. To see the most recent distribution of appointments, check out the "Admission Statistics" on our website: music.wisc.edu/graduate-admissions

Which positions are available in 2022-23?

All of the appointments described above will be available to a certain extent, although the specific number of opportunities depends greatly on variable factors (such as enrollment trends, faculty grants, and the stock market) and the rotation of current graduate students out of existing appointments.

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.

When will I hear about funding?

If you are selected for the first round of offers, you will receive your offer no later than March 15. If you are not selected for the first round, you may still receive an offer at any time throughout the spring. Our ability to make secondary offers depends upon how many students accept our first offers. Like other schools, students who are offered funding in the first round will have until April 15 to accept our offer. This is a very dynamic process, and positions often open up at the last minute. Rest assured that we will contact you the moment we are able to offer you anything.

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 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 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.