

**Notes from Meeting between GPIA Administrative Representatives,
Financial Aid Representatives and GPIA Student Government**

Date: October 24th, 2005
Attendance:
GPIA Administration: Jonathan Bach (asst. director)
Graduate Financial Aid Office: Jill Desjean
GPIA Student Government: Natalie Rodic
Shannon Hayes

Further questions or comments? Contact the student government!

Award Appeal Process

GPIA Faculty and administration have worked with the financial aid office to instate a clear process for review of GPIA Awards. At this point, students are granted an award based on their application packet, on an expectation of what they will do. In order to make up for the fact that sometimes people exceed expectations, GPIA has instituted a review process.

Jonathan will soon send out a memo about the new official procedure for financial aid appeals to the listserv. This is intended to provide a standard and transparent process for any and all students to have their financial aid reconsidered after their first semester. It involves filling out a form which will be reviewed by GPIA administration and sent to Financial Aid office. This will now be the only way to appeal.

Students should keep in mind they are not entitled to an aid increase, but are encouraged to ask for one if they have excelled beyond what their initial award reflects.

All GPIA scholarships are merit-based only. Individuals are encouraged to add any changes in financial situations to the appeal application. If a student is not granted a higher award, she or he should visit the financial aid office to make sure they are considering all of their options.

*****All questions, appeals or concerns regarding financial should go directly to Financial Aid office, and not to GPIA administrators or faculty.*****

Summer Financial Aid Process

Financial Aid for GPIA Summer Field Internships is awarded almost completely on the basis of need. This need is determined by the student's file in the Financial Aid office through a quantitative ranking system. (Partially due to the fact that, usually, when applying for summer programs, only one semester's worth of grades have been accumulated).

You should be notified of your summer award by the end of December.

*****PLEASE NOTE*** All graduate students have a maximum yearly loan allowance of \$18,500, by law. Be advised that if you are planning to go on a summer program, you should not accept the entire amount of your loan during the fall and spring semesters. You can then borrow the balance for the summer term.**

All students participating in these projects will automatically be considered for aid.

The funds available for summer are very limited, and not everyone participating will receive aid.

Clarification: The deposits for the summer are not due until after the financial aid awards are announced.