



**Resolution on ELIMINATING OR WAIVING CONTINUATION
FEES FOR STUDENTS BEYOND THE FIFTH YEAR OF
DOCTORAL STUDY
(Resolution 2014-02)**

Graduate and Professional Student Council, General Assembly

Whereas continuation fees, or fees incurred by graduate students after the fifth year of study, present a financial burden on doctoral students in the humanities;

Whereas the aforementioned fees counteract students' completing the Ph.D. in a timely fashion;

Whereas time to degree in the humanities on average exceeds the funding package offered by the graduate school, such that students will necessarily be expected to pay continuation fees starting their fifth year and beyond;¹

Whereas yearly fees incurred on average total \$6,324, (which does not include the added cost of health insurance, ~ \$2,000/year); an expense expected to be paid by the student from limited income [*See Exhibit 1-4*];²

Whereas international students, who represent a great percentage of the graduate student population, are levied fees without the option of taking out loans in order to finance study and health insurance beyond the fifth year;

Whereas the continuation fees at Duke University are higher than those at peer institutions and mostly without the recourse of absorption by the graduate school or bankrolling from individual departments [*See Exhibit 5*];

Whereas external funding acquired in the form of a grant or fellowship may impede funding by the department, possibly causing the student to lose access to one or more years of guaranteed funding [*See Exhibit 6*];

Whereas resources covered by continuation fees are currently unknown;

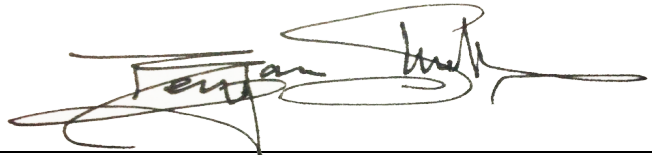
Whereas continuation fees are imposed even when students are not in residence at Duke University; and

Whereas the payment of continuation fees drastically increases personal financial liability, such that students must work for their departments and/or find funding to (re) pay without consideration of cost of living expenses; now, therefore be it:

Resolved, that the doctoral students in Duke Humanities programs:

1. Urge the Duke Administration to provide an explanation of the services continuation fees cover for the Duke community;
2. Urge the Duke Administration to consider that the continuation fees for doctoral students in the Humanities at competitive institutions are drastically lower than those at Duke or do not exist;
3. Urge the Duke Administration to consult with faculty members in the Humanities who serve as Directors of Graduate Studies (DGSs) in programs with doctoral candidates on the question of the utility of continuation fees; and
4. Urge the Duke Administration to consider the reduction or elimination of continuation fees altogether.

Signed,



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FOOTNOTES

¹ <http://gradschool.duke.edu/about/statistics/all-departments-phd-time-degree-statistics>

² All expenses are adjusted by a 1.5% cost of living increase to adjust for inflation, the amount used by the Social Security Administration (<http://www.ssa.gov/oact/cola/latestCOLA.html>)

Sources:

Estimated Living Expenses for Durham-based Graduate Students from:

1.) Duke Nicholas School's 2-14=2-15 data (nicolas.duke.edu/admissions/tuition-fees)

2.) Sanford Public Policy School's 2012-2013 data (<http://graduate.sanford.duke.edu/mpp/estimated-cost-attendance-2012-2013>)

Definitions:

Housing: Durham Rent

Board: Food, Utilities

Transportation: Car Payments/Rental, Bus Fare, Gasoline, Insurance, Maintenance, etc.

Miscellaneous Living Expenses: Personal Care Items, Clothing, Books and School Supplies, Household Goods & Cleaning Supplies, Childcare, Medical Expenses (Rx, Co-Pays), Visits to Family, etc.

Summer Research: Mean Average for 2 months of International Research Travel including International & Local Transportation, Accommodation, Food, Library Fees, etc. In Years 1-4. This average is derived from a survey of current AAHVS students

Continuation Fees: Year 6 costs are \$3,162 per semester (\$6,324 AY), Year 7 costs are \$6,324 (AY) + mandatory health insurance fee, \$2,837

Fellowship: AAHVS Fellowship for students entering in 2011, less taxes

Teaching Assistant Job (2 Semesters) = apx \$3,164 (\$3,722 taxed) per semester = \$6,328 per year

On-Campus Job: Estimate is based on the Nasher's hourly rate, working apx. 200 hours per Academic Year (AY). It is important to note that given the number of students working and budget constraints, it is nearly impossible to be assigned the hours required to earn the maximum amount (\$2,000 AY) permitted by the GS (http://gradschool.duke.edu/sites/default/files/documents/policy_stipend_supplementation.pdf) at any on-campus job.

Summer Funding: Although cases vary, the average AAHVS student receives the following summer awards: \$2,000 (prev. from AAHVS, now from GS), \$5,500 (GS Summer Award), and \$2,500 from an external funding source

*Not Included:

Excluded from this accounting are conference travel costs, or, most importantly, previous student loan payments. Average undergraduate student loan debt is \$26,830, 6.8% Interest Rate (Source: <https://studentloans.gov/myDirectLoan/financialAwarenessCounseling.action?execution=e1s1>) and this amount excludes additional loans incurred from M.A. studies. The average annual amount owed on the aforementioned loan is \$3,708/year. (Source: Annual Repayments calculator: <http://www.finaid.org/calculators/loanpayments.phtml>). While some student loans are deferred during the PhD, many (state-backed loans, for example) are not and therefore require monthly payments. Almost all of student loans continue to accrue interest during post-graduate studies.

EXHIBITS

Exhibit 1: Income of Type 1 PhD Students in the Humanities at Duke University

	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6 (Fellowship)	Year 6 (No Fellowship)	Year 7 (Fellowship)	Year 7 (No Fellowship)
Housing	\$7,763	\$7,879	\$7,998	\$8,118	\$8,239	\$8,363	\$8,363	\$8,488	\$8,488
Board	\$4,562	\$4,630	\$4,700	\$4,770	\$4,842	\$4,915	\$4,915	\$4,989	\$4,989
Transportation	\$1,648	\$1,673	\$1,698	\$1,723	\$1,749	\$1,775	\$1,775	\$1,802	\$1,802
Miscellaneous Living Expenses*	\$3,408	\$3,459	\$3,511	\$3,564	\$3,617	\$3,671	\$3,671	\$3,726	\$3,726
Summer Research	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Continuation Fees +Health Insurance	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$6,324	\$6,324	\$9,161	\$9,161
TOTAL EXPENSES:	\$22,381	\$22,642	\$22,906	\$23,175	\$18,448	\$25,048	\$25,048	\$28,166	\$28,166
Fellowship (Post-Tax)	\$18,000	\$18,000	\$18,000	\$18,000	\$18,000	\$18,000	\$0	\$18,000	\$0
Teaching Assistant job both semesters	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$6,328	\$0	\$6,328
On-Campus Job (200hrs/AY)	\$2,000	\$2,000	\$2,000	\$2,000	\$2,000	\$2,000	\$2,000	\$2,000	\$2,000
Summer Funding	\$2,000	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$2,500	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
TOTAL INCOME:	\$22,000	\$25,000	\$25,000	\$22,500	\$20,000	\$20,000	\$8,328	\$20,000	\$8,328
ANNUAL NET:	-\$381	\$2,358	\$2,094	-\$675	\$1,552	-\$5,048	-\$16,720	-\$8,166	-\$19,838

Exhibit 2: Forecast for Finances at Graduation

Forecast for Finances at Graduation: Students in Departments that *don't* absorb continuation fees

Five-Year Net	4,948
Six-Year Net (Fellowship)	-100
Six-Year Net (No Fellowship)	-11,772
Seven-Year Net (Fellowships Y6 & 7)	-8,266
Seven-Year Net (1 Fellowship Y6 OR 7)	-24,886
Seven-Year Net (No Fellowships Y6 or 7)	-31,610

Actual cost out-of-pocket cost of PhD degree for type 1 students entering in 2011 who complete the degree in 7 (6.7) years (type 1 average for 2002-2007 per the GS) will range from \$12,766 to \$43,152.

Exhibit 3: Income of Type 2 PhD Students in the Humanities at Duke

	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6 (Fellowship)	Year 6 (No Fellowship)	Year 7 (Fellowship)	Year 7 (No Fellowship)
Housing	\$7,763	\$7,879	\$7,998	\$8,118	\$8,239	\$8,363	\$8,363	\$8,488	\$8,488
Board	\$4,562	\$4,630	\$4,700	\$4,770	\$4,842	\$4,915	\$4,915	\$4,989	\$4,989
Transportation	\$1,648	\$1,673	\$1,698	\$1,723	\$1,749	\$1,775	\$1,775	\$1,802	\$1,802
Miscellaneous Living Expenses*	\$3,408	\$3,459	\$3,511	\$3,564	\$3,617	\$3,671	\$3,671	\$3,726	\$3,726
Summer Research	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Continuation Fees +Health Insurance	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$9,161	\$9,161
TOTAL EXPENSES:	\$22,381	\$22,642	\$22,906	\$23,175	\$18,448	\$18,724	\$18,724	\$28,166	\$28,166
Fellowship (Post-Tax)	\$18,000	\$18,000	\$18,000	\$18,000	\$18,000	\$18,000	\$0	\$18,000	\$0
Teaching Assistant Job (2 Semesters)	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$6,328	\$0	\$6,328
On-Campus Job (200hrs/AY)	\$2,000	\$2,000	\$2,000	\$2,000	\$2,000	\$2,000	\$2,000	\$2,000	\$2,000
Summer Funding	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$5,500	\$2,500	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
TOTAL INCOME:	\$25,000	\$25,000	\$25,500	\$22,500	\$20,000	\$20,000	\$8,328	\$20,000	\$8,328
ANNUAL NET:	\$2,619	\$2,358	\$2,594	-\$675	\$1,552	\$1,276	-\$10,396	-\$8,166	-\$19,838

Exhibit 4: Forecast of Finances at Graduation

Forecast for Finances at Graduation: Students in Departments that <i>do</i> absorb continuation fees	
Five-Year Net	8,448
Six-Year Net (Fellowship)	9,724
Six-Year Net (No Fellowship)	-1,948
Seven-Year Net (Fellowships Y6 & 7)	1,558
Seven-Year Net (1 Fellowship Y6 OR 7)	-18,562
Seven-Year Net (No Fellowships Y6 or 7)	-21,786

Exhibit 5: Continuation Fees at Comparable Universities

Fig. 1: Continuation Fees Levied at Universities vs. Average Yearly Cost to Students

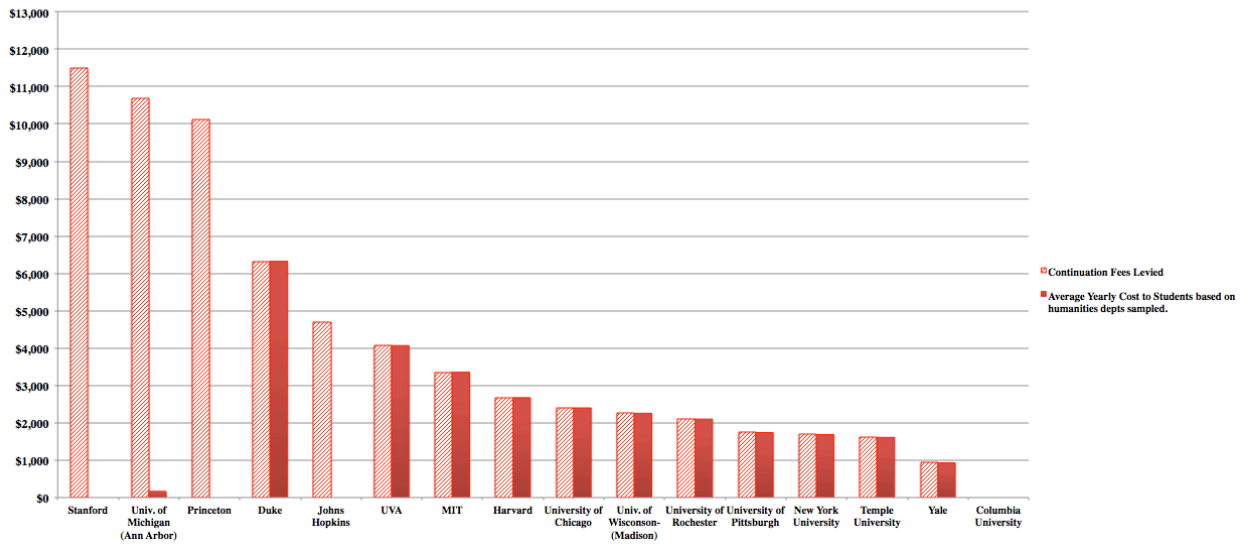
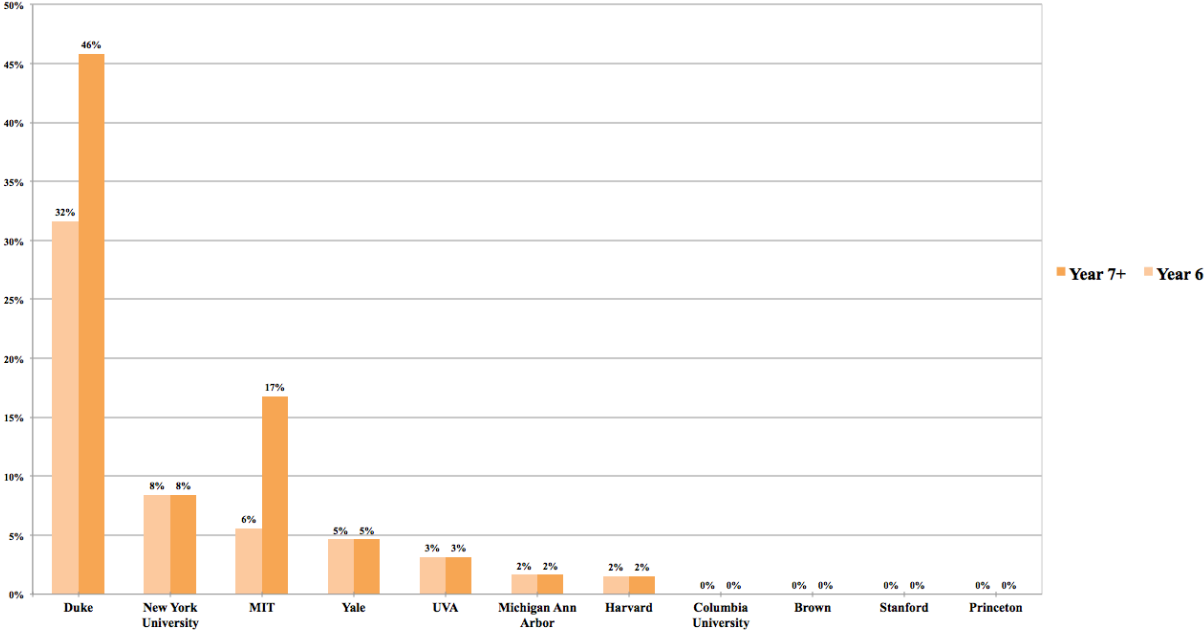


Exhibit 6: Estimated Percentages that Universities Take Out of External Fellowships

**Fig. 2: Estimated Percentages that Universities Take Out of External Fellowships:
PhD Year 6 and 7+**





FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Summary:

The Graduate and Professional Student Council (“GPSC”) has enacted and approved a resolution urging the Duke Graduate School (“DSG”) to eliminate or waive continuation fees for humanities students beyond the fifth year during their doctoral study. Continuation fees, compared to other schools, counteract students’ objectives of completing Ph.D. programs. Further, compared to peer institutions, Duke charges some of the highest fees. GPSC therefore urges DSG to eliminate or waive these fees for doctoral students in order to facilitate the mission established by James B. Duke: “to provide real leadership in the educational world.”

For an explanation of continuation fees, please see *Ms. Luse* below.

Press Quotes:

Ben Shellhorn, GPSC President, JD/MBA Candidate: “This is a solid step toward making Duke competitive among its peer institutions in the academic space; the solidarity that the nine graduate schools have expressed regarding the continuation fees for our humanities Ph.D. students is a tremendous step toward achieving the university’s ‘One Duke’ goal.”

Anita Bateman, GPSC General Assembly Representative, Movant of Resolution, Ph.D. Candidate, Department of Art, Art History & Visual Studies: “The resolution GPSC passed on continuation fees is a major step toward solving what is a financial burden to many.”

Anita Bateman: “Doctoral students in the humanities are not biding their time after their fifth year. Finishing within the allotted time is a goal worth striving for. If one does not reach it, however, the punishment should not be exorbitant fees levied by the Graduate School at their discretion and at a rate that would surely handicap students beyond their time here at Duke.”

Anita Bateman: “Continuation fees are not an incentive to finish a program within six or seven years. The intention backfires: progress is slowed because students are taking on more responsibilities to cover the costs of living.”

Mimi Luse, Ph.D. Candidate, Department of Art, Art History & Visual Studies: "Continuation fees are levied by the Graduate School at the cost of approximately \$6,324 a year; continuation fees are administrative charges that PhD students past their fifth or sixth year of study, depending on whether their department absorbs the fees once for them in year 6. Students must pay to remain enrolled at Duke and to finish their dissertations. After years of receiving a stipend from the Graduate School and working as a teacher's assistant, the PhD candidate, whose only form of income is more often than not either a low-paying teaching assistantship or a grant, must also come up with additional monies or, most often a loan, so that he or she can pay the school upfront on a semester-by-semester basis."

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Attachments: (1)

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BEYOND THE FIFTH YEAR OF DOCTORAL STUDY”