

ECE bonus policy for Ph.D. students with independent funding

Rationale: It is in the best interests of PhD students and their advisors for students to seek independent funding. Granting agencies and the outside world consider such funding a critical sign of a strong department. Many of our competitors incentivize Ph.D. students to write independent proposals via financial incentives. To remain competitive, and to increase the number of NIH and NSF fellowship holders in the department, we will provide students with a \$3000 per year bonus for every year that the students are funded by the external source.

Details:

- The program start date is September 1, 2018, with no grandfathering: students receiving ongoing grants are eligible, but those with funding that ended before September 2016 are not.
- The bonus is \$3000 per year, split equally between the department and the faculty mentor's unrestricted funds. The bonus will be pro-rated for funding that began before Sept. 1, 2018. The department will guide the mentor in generating the unrestricted funds.
- The funds will be given to the student for each year in which the student has an *individual* predoctoral fellowship *for which **the student wrote a scientific grant that was subjected to rigorous review.*** Among the criteria, the external funding source must require a scientific proposal written by the student, must be highly selective and open to a broad sector of the grad-student population, and must provide at least \$20,000 of the student's stipend for the year.
- The student must remain in good standing in the department, as determined by the ECE Doctoral Committee.