

Temple Merit Scholarship Summer Educational Enhancement Stipends FAQ **for Tyler Students**

Q: CAN I USE THE STIPEND TO PAY MYSELF FOR MY SUMMER EXPERIENCE? HOW MUCH SHOULD I PAY MYSELF?

A: Yes! The stipend is intended to cover living expenses so that you can take on unpaid opportunities that you might not be able to experience otherwise. Keep in mind that research and internships should be a minimum of 300 hours in duration. Use the stipend to cover your salary and any other additional expenses—i.e., travel, housing, food. How you budget everything is up to you. Here's an example:

Hourly Salary	\$12/hour x 300 hours = \$3600
Travel	\$250
Food	\$150

Q: CAN I COMBINE TWO EXPERIENCES THAT ARE UNRELATED? FOR EXAMPLE, I WANT TO STUDY ABROAD IN SPAIN DURING SUMMER SESSION I AND INTERN AT A LOCAL BUSINESS WHEN I RETURN TO PHILADELPHIA.

A: Certainly! Summer experiences do not have to be related—they just have to make sense for your academic program.

Q: CAN I USE MY STIPEND TO PAY MY TUITION FOR SUMMER COURSES AT TEMPLE?

A: No. Summer stipends cannot be used to pay any form of tuition at a domestic institution, Temple included, with the exception of a Temple study away program or any approved study abroad program.

Q: CAN I USE MY STIPEND FOR A VOLUNTEER SERVICE OPPORTUNITY?

A: Yes, it's possible. This would be categorized under "other." When filling out the proposal, be sure to clearly explain in detail why this experience would be meaningful and beneficial to your future graduate school and/or career goals. Consider, for example, participating in the Honors Appalachian Experience. Or perhaps the Mural Arts Program, the Philadelphia Museum of Art, or another non-profit.

Q: CURRENTLY, I DO NOT HAVE A 3.0 GPA. SHOULD I STILL APPLY?

A: If you are a Presidential Scholar and must use a stipend this upcoming summer, you should still apply with the intention of bringing your GPA back to a 3.0. If you are unable to do so, you may not be eligible for future stipends. If you are not a Presidential Scholar, you should wait until your GPA is at a 3.0 to apply.

Q: I WANT TO APPLY TO A PROGRAM BUT WILL NOT KNOW IF I HAVE BEEN ACCEPTED IN TIME FOR THE STIPEND APPLICATION DEADLINE OF MARCH 1ST. WHAT SHOULD I DO?

A: You should apply to your program anyway. When you fill out the stipend application, you can make note of this in the abstract and proposal. While you wait to hear back, consider thinking about a back-up plan.

Q: WHAT IF I AM NOT ACCEPTED INTO MY PROPOSED PROGRAM?

A: Adjustments to the proposal may be requested. Be in touch as soon as possible with your school/college to amend your proposal.

Q: I'VE ESTIMATED THE BUDGET FOR MY PROJECT BUT I DON'T THINK I'LL NEED THE FULL \$4000.

A: Go back and review your budget. Have you accounted for travel expenses for your internship—train passes? Subway tokens? Cab fees? How about your books for your classes abroad? Will you need to purchase any equipment or software for research? Don't forget about food! There are a lot of other fees you might not

have considered. Get some insight from others! In the end you are not *obligated* to spend it all, though you cannot carry any leftover to the next summer.

Q: WHAT IF I DON'T KNOW ANY FACULTY MEMBERS WELL?

A: Start by coming to visit Carmina Cianciulli, your Assistant Dean for Undergraduate Studies and Student Affairs. She knows the faculty and the program heads and can make some connections for you.

Your other option is to speak to the department chairperson of the area that holds the most interest to you. Go to the department websites where you can read about faculty research. If a topic catches your interest, email the professor and ask to meet!

Q: I'M DOUBLE MAJORING ACROSS COLLEGES. WHICH SCHOOL/COLLEGE DEAN SHOULD I SUBMIT MY PAPERWORK TO?

A: You should submit your stipend application to the dean of your home school/college.

Q: OKAY, BUT I WANT TO USE MY STIPEND FOR AN EXPERIENCE THAT IS MORE RELEVANT TO MY SECOND MAJOR... SHOULD I STILL SUBMIT TO TYLER?

A: Yes! Your stipend application will not be rejected because you submitted to a school/college that is unrelated to your proposal.

Q: I WANT TO STUDY ABROAD THIS SUMMER. WHAT'S THE PROCESS FOR THIS?

A: After you find a program you'd like to apply to, you should talk to your academic advisor to ensure that the program's classes will contribute to your academic development. After this, a designee from the Education Abroad office will sign in place of the required faculty signature.

Please review the complete University Travel Protocols for more information.

Q: ARE THERE RULES ABOUT AIRFARE AND HOTEL RATES?

The Center for the Arts has a travel policy for students who receive Dean's grants. Please see attached. Per diem rates for hotels and meals can be found here: <http://www.gsa.gov/portal/content/104877>

Q: MAY I USE THE STIPEND TO PURCHASE AN EXPENSIVE PIECE OF EQUIPMENT, SOFTWARE, TECHNOLOGY, CAMERA, NEW COMPUTER, ETC.?

The stipend is meant to fund the full experience, not to purchase expensive hard goods or expensive usables. It is preferred that you rent or borrow expensive items. If the purchase of the equipment is essential to the project, and your school or college approves the expense, it is expected that the item(s) should be donated to the appropriate department upon completion of the summer project so that other students may benefit.

Q: I'M DOING A RESEARCH PROJECT OR A COMBINATION OF AN EXPERIENCE OR INTERNSHIP AND A PROJECT. DO I NEED TO ACCOUNT FOR EVERY HOUR?

The best way to show that you've used 300 hours is to create a calendar that shows what you'll be doing and when. The calendar is a useful organizational tool for any project. It can be very general, and we recognize that the calendar can change somewhat once the project is underway. If you are working in an internship, the

documentation should show how many hours you're expected to work. While we will not require this to approve the stipend application, we will request it as part of the final documentation.

Q: WHERE DO I SUBMIT THE PROPOSAL FOR DEAN'S APPROVAL?

A: Submit it to Carmina Cianciulli, Assistant Dean for Undergraduate Studies and Student Affairs, Tyler building 210G - or email it to carmina.cianciulli@temple.edu