Graduate Catalog “Financial Assistance” – first paragraph

Rationale:

• Graduate students can be confused about the type of funding they are being awarded, duties required, and whether or not it is renewable.

• Full-time PhD students who maintain satisfactory progress should be able to maintain a minimum level of funding.
  • If a student is admitted with TA funding, they should have assurance that they will continue to have funding if they are meeting expectations.

• Sometimes Faculty need flexibility to support students on small or limited projects (e.g. Master’s or PhD students who do not need full support)
Financial assistance to support graduate students is available in the form of teaching assistantships, research assistantships, fellowships, internships, and loans. Entering students are awarded either teaching or research assistantships or fellowships will receive official notification pertaining to the type and level of financial assistance from the Graduate Studies Office.
Financial assistance to support graduate students is available in the form of teaching assistantships, research assistantships, other graduate assistantships, fellowships, internships, and loans. ...

**Fellowships** are defined as full support for 12 months, including 9 credits/semester of tuition.

Fellowships carry the specific expectations as defined in the notice of award, and are used to support the student to focus on research in their area of study.
Teaching Assistants are *almost always* for a full academic year of 9 months... and include a stipend and full tuition

The expected responsibilities of Teaching Assistants are to support courses...

Research Assistants are *typically for 9 or 12 months* and include a stipend and full tuition

The expected responsibilities are to support research activities as defined by the supporting faculty member.
Additional category of “Graduate Assistant” added

**Graduate Assistants** are students that are not otherwise supported...

No implied long-term commitment. Typically receive hourly or fixed stipends for a specific activity.

*This is intended to support students who would not otherwise receive assistantships, typically self-funded Master’s students.*