**Financial Support and Teaching**

*How is financial aid decided?*

At the end of January, you should turn in a financial aid application form to Cherie along with a recent essay(s) or chapter selections (minimum of 5 pages, maximum of 30), written since the previous aid deadline. We also ask you to submit a personal statement of purpose (1-2 double-spaced pages) putting your writing sample in context and discussing your progress and goals in the program. The applications will be read by the Advisory Committee and will be a factor in aid decisions for the upcoming year in the event that there is not enough aid for all returning students. Students teaching Rhetoric or Gen Ed Lit can reasonably expect their appointments to continue for a second year if they are productive in the Nonfiction Writing Program and in good standing as teachers.

NOTE: The Nonfiction Writing Program has a limited aid pool and is somewhat at the tender mercies of the Rhetoric and Gen Ed Lit Programs. We do NOT control the number of teaching slots these programs give us from year to year and these slots do vary. Likewise, we're not usually given a slot until one is vacated.

In order to attract students from elsewhere and to be competitive with other programs, we have to reserve a certain number of these slots for incoming students. This naturally puts the squeeze on students in the program who currently are without aid. While we make every effort to find aid for these students, it’s increasingly difficult to do so. Some of these students find Research Assistantships and teaching assistantships within other programs, and this somewhat alleviates the strain, though it’s by no means a perfect solution. Unfortunately, we do not imagine the situation will improve soon as the university is cutting rather than adding TA positions.

*Is all funding renewed from year to year?*

Not necessarily, though if you remain in good standing you can reasonably expect it to be renewed for a second and third year. Please pay careful attention to your funding offer, as some scholarships and fellowships only last two years. In other words, if you’re from out of state, you'll pay out of state tuition for your third year (unless you’re funded as a TA or an RA for that year and have at least a quarter time (25%) appointment). This is another good reason to get most of your credits out of the way in your first two years.

That said, all graduate students with TA or RA appointments receive a tuition scholarship as negotiated by COGS from the Graduate College. This scholarship is pro-rated according to the number of hours you take per semester.
What is and who teaches CNW:1000, and CNW:2000?

CNW:1000 to CNW:2000 level classes are undergraduate creative nonfiction courses. They are taught by NWP students.

Do you teach fewer Rhetoric classes if you teach in the Writing Center?

If you teach Rhetoric, and you want to teach in the writing center, you need to negotiate directly with the Rhetoric Department. But yes, you would normally be substituting teaching in the writing center for teaching rhetoric, provided you've taken 8N:375: “Teaching in a Writing Center.” However, the Nonfiction Writing Program has nothing to do with this and it’s up to you to negotiate the balance between your rhetoric classes and the writing center.

Can the Rhetoric’s PDP class be taken for credit?

Yes, you can take it for three credits if you wish.

Are we eligible for travel funds?

As a general rule you are awarded funding for three conference/workshop/research trips during your time in the program (limited to one per year; see detailed information below) and two trips to the AWP or MLA job interviews. If you have any questions regarding travel, please stop in to see Cherie and she will be happy to assist you.

Website link: Funding for MFA Students

Travel to conferences and research

The Department will fund travel to conferences or research sites (such as research trips to investigate new writing subjects, interview people, etc.) in the amount of $200 per trip, limited to one trip per fiscal year (July 1 to June 30) and limited to three trips total for MFA students. (For students working simultaneously on MFA and PhD degrees, the maximum number of trips shall be three.) You may only use one allotment of funding per trip, even if you take a trip that spans the fiscal year.

Eligibility and application procedures:

Nonfiction Writing Program students are eligible for travel support to conduct research, participate in the Overseas Writing Workshop (or another approved workshop), attend the AWP, and/or present a paper at a conference. In order to apply for travel support Nonfiction Writing Program students should first email a one-paragraph request for travel funds outlining the nature of the proposed trip to Cherie. Your request should include the
dates and other details of your proposed trip, and an explanation of its importance to your professional development. Cherie will then forward the request to the Director of Graduate Studies for final approval.

If you intend to travel outside the United States and your trip is partially funded by the English Department, you are required to register your trip online 45 days prior to departure. For additional information, please visit this website: http://international.uiowa.edu/study-abroad/forms-and-procedures to guarantee your health insurance and emergency services. Once you receive your international insurance card, please forward a copy of the card to Justin and Cherie.

When you receive a letter of approval from the DGS approving the reimbursement, you will need to save receipts during the trip and confer with Joelle Petersen, English Admin Services Coordinator, joelle-petersen@uiowa.edu upon your return. Joelle handles the actual reimbursement.

Since travel support funds may, in any given year, be limited, students are encouraged to also seek travel support from other sources within the University. See Funding For MFA Students for a list of other funding sources.

**Travel for job interviews**

For MFA students who have job interviews at events approved by the director of the Nonfiction Writing Program, the English Department will offer up to two awards of $300 to help cover travel expenses. This is in addition to the three supported trips to conferences, archives, or workshops described above. Funding is not available for interviews where the interviewing institution is paying for lodging and travel expenses. This funding is not available after graduation. Interviews must be completed prior to graduation.