FINANCIAL SUPPORT

Research Assistantships
- Research Assistantships are awarded directly to students by the department faculty. The sources for RA funding are derived from research grants and contracts awarded to the faculty. Typically, the faculty sponsor arranges to do research with a student who is pursuing a PhD or MS degree. It is the responsibility of all applicants to find a faculty member with whom he/she can conduct research projects. Research assistantships are usually given to students that the faculty member has had in class and with whom the faculty member or research group intends to do research.
- RA positions are highly competitive and are traditionally awarded to Ph.D. students

Teaching Assistantships
- Teaching Assistantships are awarded to applicants by the chair of the Department and are usually given to new graduate students for one year only. The awards are based on the potential of the candidate to make an outstanding contribution to the BME graduate program. Usually, students who have been given a TA for one year are expected to transition into being supported as an RA after their first year.
- TA positions are highly competitive and are traditionally awarded to Ph.D. students.
- Not all students recommended for a TA will receive one due to the limited available positions.

BME Departmental Scholarship
- The scholarship is awarded through the Department of Biomedical Engineering. Applicants are eligible upon acceptance into the Graduate Program. Scholar selections are determined by the department's scholarship committee. Criteria used for awarding this competitive scholarship are as follows:
  o Academic record in undergraduate program, the quality of the undergraduate program, the reputation of the academic institution and any previous other academic experience
  o Graduate record examination results
  o Letters of recommendation
  o Job experience
  o Publications
  o Research Interests and research statements
  o Research Experience
  o Journal Publications
  o Poster and oral presentation record/evidence
- In order to maintain the BME Departmental Scholarship, current scholars must complete a minimum of 6 credit hours each Fall/Spring/Summer semester and maintain a minimum 3.0 semester GPA. Awarding of the scholarship is contingent upon available funds.

Graduate Tuition Fellowship (GTF)
- The Graduate Tuition Fellow or GTF is awarded each semester to students with RA or TA positions. GTF traditionally covers tuition and some fees (not all fees are covered). The GTF award is submitted by the department on behalf of the student.

In-State Waiver
- In-State Waivers are awarded to students with TA or RA positions who are from outside the state of Texas. The waiver grants out-of-state students, in-state tuition. This is submitted by the department on behalf of the student.
- $1,000+ scholarships awarded to a student from an Advisor or UH affiliate, can grant out-of-state students, in-state tuition. Proof of the award needs to be given to the Graduate Advisor, prior to the start of the
University of Houston Scholarship Opportunities

- Scholarship opportunities for Graduate students can be reviewed here: http://www.uh.edu/financial/undergraduate/types-aid/scholarships/index.php

Bill Payment Options

There are three options for students in regards to paying their bill: http://www.uh.edu/financial/payment/plans/#IPP

- **Installment Pay Plan:** This plan is available to any student unable to pay the full amount due by the university due date.
  - Does not cover prior unpaid balances.
  - $25.00 non-refundable origination fee.
  - Provides for 4 separate installments.
  - The 1st installment is due by the initial due date for all students and must be at least 25% of the current semester's tuition and fees.
  - Requires that any credits to the account (financial aid, etc) must first be applied to the unpaid balances.
  - A late fee charge of $25.00 will apply for each installment not paid by the due date.
  - Any additional charges added to the student's account after the initial installment will be included in the installment plan. However, the student may be required to immediately pay an amount equal to at least 25% of any new charges.
  - The Installment Pay Plan is not available for Winter Mini session students who are not enrolled in the Spring term.
  - The Installment Pay Plan is not available to students whose financial aid covers 100% of their total term balance.

- **Emergency Deferment Plan:** This plan defers the payment of all the current semester's tuition and mandatory fees. (non-housing students)
  - Is only available to students who do not live in university housing.
  - Does not cover prior unpaid balances.
  - The deferment covers only tuition and required/mandatory fees for the current term.
  - The plan defers payment until the 90th day for the fall/spring term or the 45th day of the regular session for the Summer term.
  - The deferment has a 5% annual percentage rate.
  - A late fee charge of $25.00 will apply if outstanding debt is not paid in full by due date.
  - Requires that any credits to the account (financial aid, etc) must first be applied to the unpaid balance of the deferment.
  - The plan must be paid during the term for which it was entered.

- **Short-Term Tuition Deferment Plan:** This plan defers the payment of all the current semester's tuition and fees. (housing students only)
  - Is only available to students who live in university housing.
  - Does not cover prior unpaid balances.
  - Is for the entire balance of current term tuition, fees, housing, board
  - The deferment accrues interest at a 12% annual percentage rate.
  - The deferment has a $5.00 origination fee.
  - A late fee charge of $25.00 will apply if outstanding debt is not paid in full by due date.
  - The deferment is due and payable no later than the 45th calendar of the term in a regular fall/spring term; and
- The deferment is due and payable no later than the 30th calendar day of a short term such as the summer or other special terms; or the last day of the session, whichever occurs earlier.
- Requires that any credits to the account (financial aid, etc) must first be applied to the unpaid balance of the deferment.

**Bill Payment Deadlines**

- It is very important for students to pay attention to the payment deadlines! Should bills be not paid, students can be dropped from their courses.
- Follow this link to check payment deadlines: [http://www.uh.edu/financial/payment/billing-due-dates/](http://www.uh.edu/financial/payment/billing-due-dates/)