Minimum Salaries for Graduate Research Assistants

Until summer 2012, the minimum stipend rates paid to graduate assistants at USC (including teaching assistants, research assistants and assistant lecturers, as defined in The Graduate Assistant Handbook) are:

.50 time $20,000 for the 9 month academic year
.33 time $13,333 for the 9 month academic year
.25 time $10,000 for the 9 month academic year

Effective with the fall 2012 semester, the minimum stipend rates paid to graduate assistants at USC (including teaching assistants, research assistants and assistant lecturers, as defined in The Graduate Assistant Handbook) are:

.50 time $20,250 for the 9 month academic year
.33 time $13,365 for the 9 month academic year
.25 time $10,125 for the 9 month academic year

Minimum Salaries for Postdoctoral Scholars

The minimum compensation for postdoctoral scholars (including postdoctoral research associates, postdoctoral fellows and postdoctoral teaching fellows) is $39,264, per year (12 months), effective July 1, 2012.

The category of postdoctoral fellow may only be used if an external sponsor requires appointment as a student. Evidence must be provided to the Executive Vice Provost to demonstrate that the postdoctoral scholar must be treated as a student (e.g., will not be assigned duties or tasks by the mentor or University). The category of postdoctoral fellow may not be used for scholars paid from unrestricted university funds.

Minimum salaries are adjusted annually for both graduate research assistants and postdoctoral scholars.