Minimum Salaries for Graduate Teaching Assistants, Research Assistants, and Graduate Assistant Lecturers

The minimum stipend rates to be paid to graduate teaching assistants, research assistants, and graduate assistant lecturers at USC during the 2016-2017 academic year, which includes fall 2016 and spring 2017 is listed below. Summer 2017 stipends should be calculated separately and match the percentage stipend rates listed.

Descriptions of the roles and responsibilities of teaching assistants, research assistants, and graduate assistant lecturers are in The Handbook for Teaching Assistants (TAs), Research Assistants (RAs), and Graduate Assistant Lecturers (ALs), which can be found at http://www.usc.edu/schools/GraduateSchool/current_guidelines_forms.html.

Stipend Rates:
Effective as of fall 2016, minimum stipend rates will be as follows:

- .50 time $ 22,000 for the academic year
- .33 time $ 14,667 for the academic year
- .25 time $ 11,000 for the academic year

Health and Dental Benefits:
USC health and dental insurance policies and the USC student health center fee will continue to be part of the minimum funding package.

Minimum Salaries for Postdoctoral Scholars

The minimum compensation for postdoctoral scholars (including Postdoctoral Scholar - Research Associates, Postdoctoral Scholar – Fellowship Trainees and Postdoctoral Scholar - Teaching Fellows) is $43,692 (12 months) and the RA stipend is $22,000 effective July 1, 2016 to June 30, 2017.

However, effective December 1, 2016, in accordance with the U.S. Department of Labor’s final rule updating salary and compensation regulations, the minimum annual salary for postdoctoral scholars at USC will be set at $47,476. This minimum salary applies to all current and newly appointed postdoctoral scholars on or after December 1, 2016.

The category of Postdoctoral Scholar – Fellowship Trainee may only be used if an external sponsor requires appointment as a student. Evidence must be provided to the Office of Postdoctoral Affairs to demonstrate that the postdoctoral scholar must be treated as a fellowship trainee (e.g., will not be assigned duties or tasks by the mentor or University). The category of Postdoctoral Scholar – Fellowship Trainee may not be used for scholars paid from unrestricted university funds.

For more information on Postdoctoral Scholar policies please see http://policy.usc.edu/postdoctoralscholars/