Minimum Salaries for Graduate Research Assistants

Effective with the fall 2014 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 $21,000 for the 9 month academic year  
.33 time $13,850 for the 9 month academic year  
.25 time $10,500 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 $42,000, per year (12 months), effective July 1, 2014, and $39,264 until then.

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.