



PhD Funding for Entering Students

Columbia University Graduate School of Arts and Sciences

U.S. Citizens and Permanent Residents - Stipends

Summer 2026

Presented by GSAS Office of Financial Aid

Today's Session

- Introduction
- Overview of PhD Funding
 - Funding Disbursement Process
- Your Responsibility
- Registration - Enrollment Categories
- Timing and Next Steps
- Q & A



Welcome to Columbia – Meet Your People

- DGS – Director of Graduate Studies
- DAAF – Director of Academic Administration and Finance \$
- Financial Aid – Departmental Liaison \$
 - <https://www.gsas.columbia.edu/content/gsas-financial-aid-contacts-department>
- Also Student Affairs, Compass, Student Life and Well-Being...

PhD Funding Overview – U.S. Citizens and PR

➤ Tuition and Fees

- Including Health Insurance for you and your eligible dependents (if applicable)
 - Insurance funding manually updated by Financial Aid through periodic reviews
 - Your insurance is active once charged to your student account – even if not yet paid

➤ Living Expenses

- Academic Year Stipend (lump sum each semester, no tax withholdings*)
 - AY Total is disbursed unequally; 4/9ths Fall, 5/9ths Spring
 - Summer Stipend (lump sum, no tax withholdings*)

<https://www.gsas.columbia.edu/content/tax-information-students>

PhD Funding Overview

➤ Humanities and Social Sciences

<https://www.gsas.columbia.edu/content/fellowship-support-doctoral-students-humanities-and-social-science-departments>

➤ E3B, Mathematics, and Statistics

<https://www.gsas.columbia.edu/content/fellowship-support-doctoral-students-e3b-mathematics-and-statistics>

➤ Other Natural Sciences

<https://www.gsas.columbia.edu/content/fellowship-support-phd-students-natural-sciences-departments>

PhD Funding Overview – Additional Resources

- Guaranteed [Columbia housing](#) for five academic years
- Full [health insurance coverage on the student plan for eligible dependents](#)
- Health insurance coverage while on an official [medical withdrawal with intent to return](#)
- [Subsidy towards optional dental insurance plan](#)
- [Accommodation for Parental Responsibilities](#)
- [Child-care subsidy](#)
- [GSAS Conference Matching Travel Fund](#)
- [GSAS International Travel Awards](#)
- Coverage of Internet fee for students in [university housing](#)
- [Printing quota upgrade](#) when not on appointment
- [Gym access](#) during funding-eligible years for the fall and spring semesters

Your Responsibility

- Rent
- Student Activities Fee: \$48 each semester
- Document Fee: \$105 one-time, first semester
- Language and Other Course Specific Fees
- Late Registration Fee: \$100
- Late Payment Fee: \$150 (first assessment), 1.5% of balance monthly
 - if related to any of the above categories or during self-funded semesters
- Withdrawal Fee: \$75

Student Financial Services will deregister students with a past-due balance.

<https://sfs.columbia.edu/content/billing-schedule>

Registration – Enrollment Categories

- Two Residence Units (RU) are required for the MA earned as part of a PhD degree
- Four additional Residence Units, for a total of six overall, are required for conferral of the MPhil, PhD, and DMA degrees.
- These six Residence Units correspond to the first three years of a PhD program.
- ***RU = Full Residence Unit (first six semesters of enrollment)***

<https://www.gsas.columbia.edu/content/phd-registration>

No tuition is assessed; no health insurance is charged; you are not a matriculated student -- until you register for the RU.

Next Steps – Prior to Registration

- **Resolve any outstanding HOLDS on your Columbia University account**
 - Immunization Requirements (start process now)
 - <https://www.health.columbia.edu/immunization-compliance-office>
 - Admissions: Official Transcripts Deadline: **August 1st**
 - Prior enrollment at Columbia – balances, administrative, check Vergil

These holds will prevent registration and disbursement of your funding.

Next Steps – Goal: Complete by Friday, July 31st

- **Update your address in Student Services On-Line (SSOL)**
 - Must have a U.S. address on record
 - Log into [SSOL](https://ssol.columbia.edu) (ssol.columbia.edu)*
 - Select Addresses: View and Update
 - Click Update under the Local Address section to make any changes
- **Enroll in Direct Deposit**
 - Must use a U.S. bank account
 - <https://www.sfs.columbia.edu/direct-deposit>
 - Complete FIRST option for Refunds/Stipends

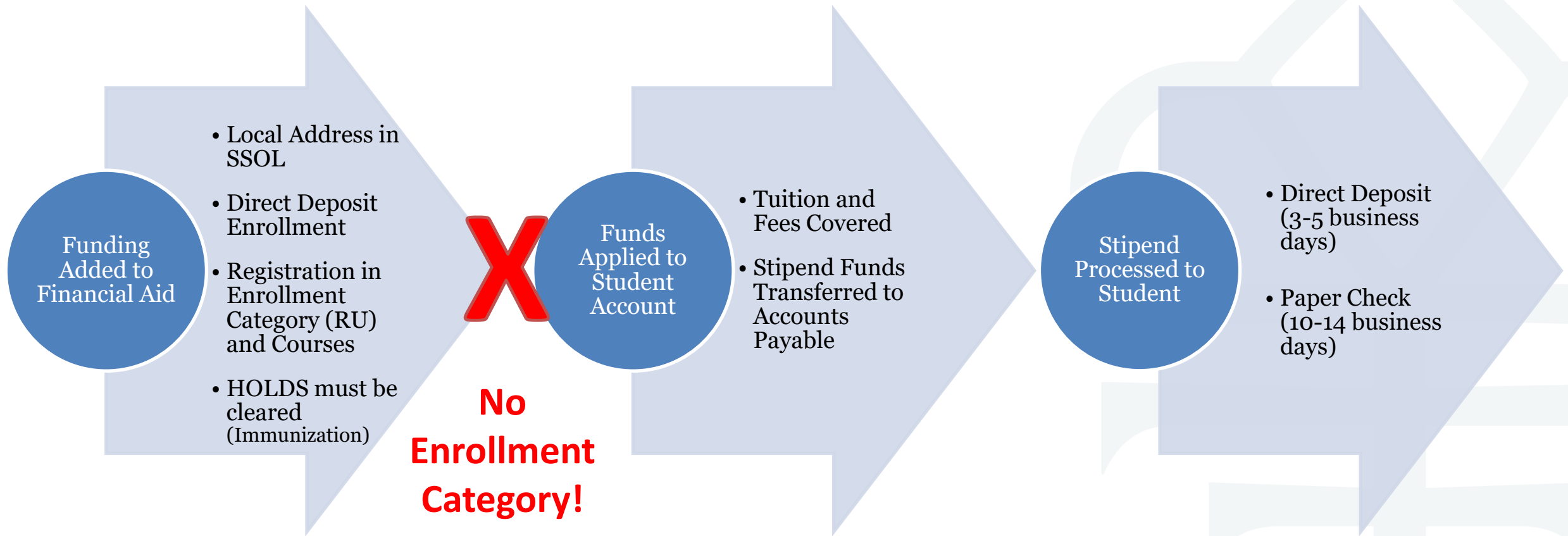
Next Steps – Register for Fall 2026 Residence Unit

- Registration will be available via Vergil beginning:

Wednesday, August 5th

- Enrollment Category = RU (Residence Unit) **Call Number 10301**
 - Registration for the RU is the trigger for your tuition and fees, including health insurance
 - You are not an enrolled student unless you are registered in the RU

Stipend Disbursement Process – U.S. Citizen or PR



More Resources: Upcoming Informational Sessions

- **Columbia Health Insurance**
 - Thursday, July 23 10:00am ET
- **Student Affairs PhD Registration Q&A**
 - Thursday, July 30 10:00am ET
- **Compass Information Session**
 - TBD August

Watch for announcements in the New Student Welcome mailings

Takeaways

- **Take action now or as soon as possible**
 - Clear HOLDS, update address and direct deposit
- **Importance of Enrollment Categories**
 - Register for RU beginning August 5th
- **Your People are HERE**





Q&A

Contact Us: gsas-finaid@columbia.edu

Financial Aid Departmental Liaisons:

<https://www.gsas.columbia.edu/content/gsas-financial-aid-contacts-department>