

# Graduate School, Financial Assistance, and H-1B, Oh My!

Life After Your First Degree

# What Are You Going To Do Next?

Home?

Work?

Graduate School?

# Graduate School

- Where do you want to go?
  - Apply to graduate programs that will
    - a: further your education
    - b: provide practical applications
    - c: provide financial assistance

# Graduate School

## RESEARCH!!!!

- Look for institutions that are geared towards your major.
- Engineering majors! Don't pick a liberal arts school...
- Don't omit schools because they seem far or not what you would normally be used to.
  - Caution!!! If climate is an issue, University of Alaska or University of Arizona may not be for you.
- Learn as much about the school before you go. Take a campus tour and a virtual tour.

# Graduate School

- Deadlines!!!!

**February 1, means February 1!!!**

- Most programs do not have “rolling” admissions. Be proactive!
- Not all programs have the same deadlines. Biology  $\neq$  Engineering
- Not all requirements are the same for all programs.

# Graduate School

- Financial Assistance???

International students are not eligible for federal financial aid, but there are other sources of financial aid.

NOW WHAT?????

# Financial Assistance

- Private Loans
- Grants
- Fellowships
- Scholarships
- Assistantships



# Financial Assistance

- Private loans – you will need a co-signer
- Grants, Scholarships and Fellowships (free money)
  - You pay it back, not in dollars, but in product.
- Where to get them?
  - Apply online –NGOs, NPOs, your country, Foundations, for profit organizations, etc.
  - Ask the department
  - Contact financial aid at the school
  - Human Resources



# Financial Assistance

- These are *competitive*, merit-based awards with a minimum GPA and specific requirements.
- Examples: American Association of University Women (AAUW) International Fellowships, Daewoo's People's Republic of China Scholarship, Ford Foundation International Scholarships, Fulbright Grants for Non-U.S. Citizens, Margaret McNamara Memorial Fund for International Scholars, Rotary Foundation Ambassadorial Scholarships

The background is a solid teal color. A faint, stylized graphic of two hands shaking is visible in the lower half of the image, rendered in a slightly darker shade of teal. The text is centered and has a subtle drop shadow.

# Financial Assistance

## Assistantships

# Assistantships

- What is an Assistantship?
  - A financial award given by an academic department or non-academic office that provides full or partial tuition waiver, health insurance and a stipend to graduate students, in return for services.
  - The stipend is given for services given.

# Assistantships

- Eligibility Requirements
  - Must be enrolled in a 9-12 credit hour program
  - Maintain a 3.0 GPA; departmental requirements may be higher
  - Make satisfactory progress towards a degree. It takes 2 to 2 ½ years to complete a Master's not 5.
  - Meet requirements to be eligible for employment in the U.S.
  - YOU CAN LOSE AN ASSISTANTSHIP!

# Assistantships

- Who? What? Where? Why? When? How?
  - An assistantship can pay for school 100%.
  - 20 hours of work.
  - Available to any graduate student.
  - Competitive. Apply for an assistantship like you would a job. You may have to interview.
  - The deadlines for assistantships may or may not coincide with admissions deadlines
  - Search for assistantships 3 ways: online, in the department, on the HR website

# Assistantships

Types of Assistantships:

- Graduate Assistantships (GA)
- Graduate Research Assistantships (RA)
- Graduate Teaching Assistantships (TA)

# Assistantships

- Graduate Assistantship
  - Provide academic and program support
  - May be administrative in nature and consist of duties unrelated directly to teaching (such as academic advising, program planning, assisting the department)
  - Can be related to program or study or completely unrelated. Example: Residential Life

# Assistantship

- Research Assistantship
  - Grad student provides significant academic and research support to a specific academic department or primary investigator, e.g., professor. Ex: CELS (College of Environmental Life and Science) and Engineering
  - Will most likely work beyond the 20 hours that are required

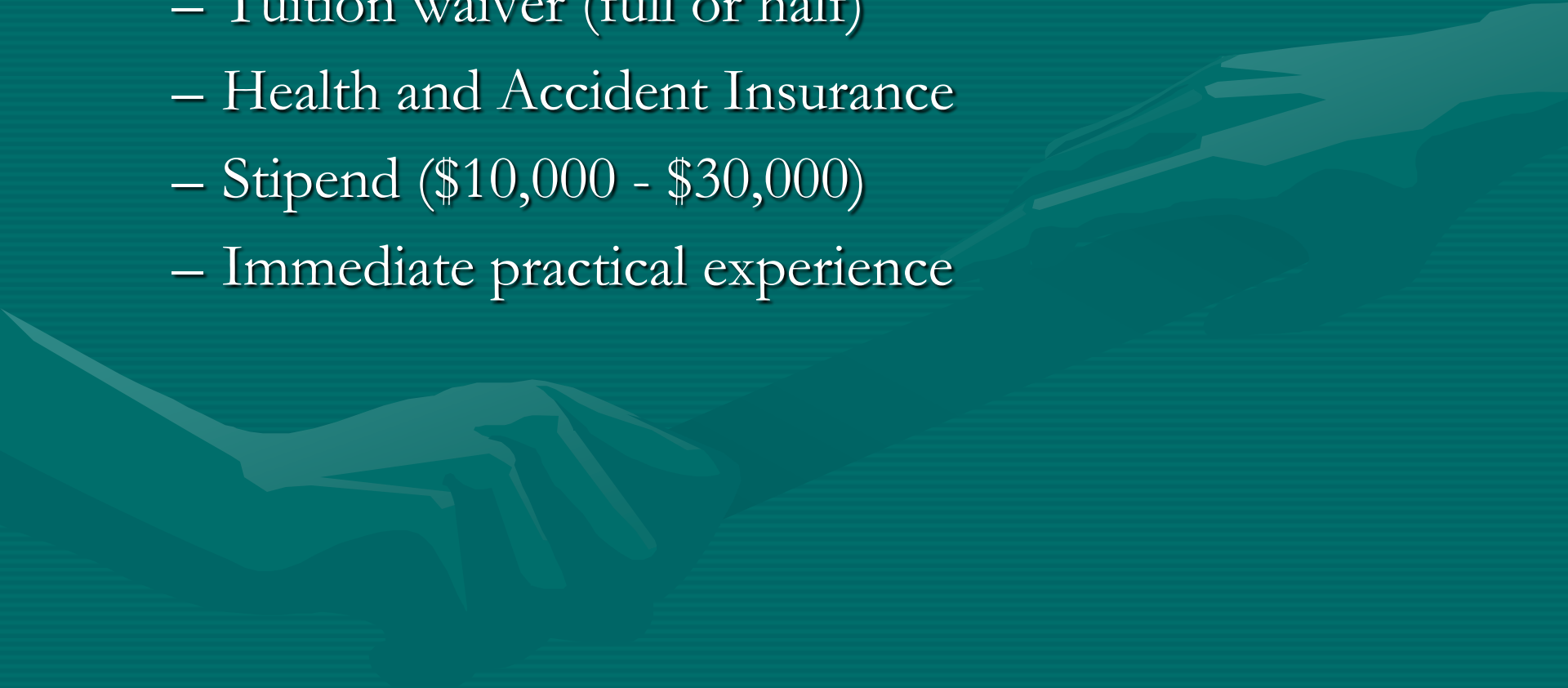


# Assistantships

- Teaching Assistantships
  - Academic support is provided directly to the professor
  - Help teach classes, grade papers, conduct review sessions, prepare the lesson
  - Assist the professor with his/her research

# Assistantships

- What you receive
  - Tuition waiver (full or half)
  - Health and Accident Insurance
  - Stipend (\$10,000 - \$30,000)
  - Immediate practical experience



# Assistantships



# Assistantships

- Ms. Stevens at URI (in state tuition & fees, total amount equals \$8,887)

– Tuition	6,032	paid by dept. to school
– Ins.	1,079	paid by dept. to school
– Stipend	12,300	paid by dept. to me

TOTAL: I paid \$1,776 per year

# Assistantships

- International Student (always considered out-of-state, equals to \$29,593)

– Tuition	17,288	paid by dept. to school
– Insurance	1,079	paid by dept. to school
– <b>Stipend</b>	<b>12,300</b>	<b>paid to you</b>

TOTAL (approx. ): \$ 30,667

# H-1B

- What is the H-1B?
  - Work visa or work permit with a duration of 3 years, and an extension for 3 more years; max 6 years.
  - Foreign nationals may temporarily work in a professional capacity.
  - The employer must file for you.
  - Requires the assistance of a lawyer.

# H-1B

- How do I qualify?
  - Must demonstrate that the occupation sought is of a special nature that cannot be easily filled with the workforce available in the U.S.
  - You must fit into the category of “priority workers” which includes:
    - Workers with advanced degrees or exceptional ability;
    - Professionals (Bachelor's Degree or the equiv.)
    - Skilled workers or others

# H-1B

- What is the Quota System?
  - DHS sets up a quota (or cap) for issuing the H-1B based of job categories.
  - Period starts between October 1<sup>st</sup> and ends the following year September 30<sup>th</sup>.
  - Once the quota is filled, you will have to wait until the following year to file.



# H-1B

- Five parties are involved in the H-1B
  - **The U.S Department of Labor (DOL)** – determines wages for compensation, certifies Labor Condition Applications (LCAs)
  - **The Department of Homeland Security** – accepts the petition for employment with DOL-certified LCA attached, determines if occupation qualifies as a specialty occupation, confers H-1B status

# H-1B

- **The U. S. Employer** – submits application to DOL, works with DOL and DHS
- **The alien employee** – must be eligible for H-1B classification, must intend to work for petitioning employer, responsible for maintaining status
- **The U.S. Department of State (DOS)** – through U.S. embassies and consulates is responsible for issuing the H-1B visa

# H-1B facts

- Employee is entitled to the same benefits as a domestic employee
- It is very difficult to lose your job (e.g. job cuts)
- Employee cannot strike or lockout
- H-1B can have dependents (H-4)
- H-1B can go to school part-time or full-time
- H-1B visa allows the person to file for Permanent Residency status for worker and entire “nuclear” family



Questions????

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