



## **ORE Guidelines: Grad Student Stipend support after Thesis Defense**

Having transitioned to a thesis laboratory, Graduate Students in good academic standing are guaranteed support for their stipend, tuition and health insurance by their PI, Division of Department, for the duration of their PhD training. As students approach their defense/ graduation and moving on to the next step in their postdoctoral career it is important to discuss the logistics of that transition with their PI. Specifically, after the student has defended and met all the conditions to be awarded their PhD, it should be agreed when they will leave the lab and their appointment and stipend etc. be terminated. Continued funding of a student after a successful defense is at the discretion of the PI and dependent on available funds, but it is important that both student and mentor agree on their mutual obligations. Students may stay on after their defense to complete some additional experiments, revise a manuscript or a mentor may agree to fund them for a brief break before they move on to their next job. A student and PI may also agree that the student will remain in their lab, possibly as student, to maintain eligibility for a subsequent postdoctoral fellowship, until their PhD is officially conferred, or with a new postdoctoral appointment. It is also critical that the relevant administrators are informed of the date of the students leaving the lab and termination of financial support or perhaps transition to a postdoctoral position.

The thesis defense and graduation are typically a time of meeting deadlines and requirements, followed by celebration as the student moves on to the next phase of their career and, in that context, occasionally some important details can fall through the cracks and miscommunication or misunderstandings may occur. These guidelines, summarized below, are intended to make sure that all parties are informed about plans and expectations are clear to ensure a smooth transition.

- PIs and their respective Divisions/ Departments commit to funding Graduate Students for the duration of their thesis project.
- Stipends, tuition and health insurance (if not waived) must continue until students have successfully defended their thesis and satisfied any conditions (as documented on the Doctor of Philosophy Thesis Defense Report) necessary to be awarded their PhD.
- Continued funding beyond these requirements is at the discretion of the PI.
- Such discretionary funding will typically not extend beyond the end of the semester in which the student graduates.
- Prior to scheduling their defense, students should discuss with their PI when their stipend will be terminated.
- PIs will provide students (and administrators) with written notification of the anticipated date of termination of their stipend, subject to a successful thesis defense, at least one month in advance of that date.