Support for MSU Graduate Students Studying International Subjects

A study of support to approximately 540 MSU graduate students studying international subjects and foreign languages showed that, in 2004-05, MSU invested $5,116,250 in fellowships, research and teaching assistantships (including tuition remission), and research and travel grants to support these students. These students received an additional $2,516,300 in support from external sources for fellowships, grants, and research assistantships, yielding a total of approximately $7.6 million in total support to graduate students studying international subjects.

These students are in degree programs in 12 colleges; the largest numbers of students are in the colleges of Social Science, Arts and Letters, Agriculture and Natural Resources, and Education. This is a carefully-researched estimate, for which we investigated support to each student individually. It is, therefore, a conservative estimate, based only on students we are confident are studying international subjects.

In addition to its own institutional investment, MSU has obtained external funding for fellowship programs that it administers that benefit graduate students doing international study. From these programs, $731,610 in fellowships was awarded to graduate students for international research and for foreign language and area and international studies. Foreign Language and Area Studies (FLAS) fellowships administered by three of MSU’s area and international studies centers accounted for approximately $600,000 of this total. Other programs included Center for International Business Education and Research (CIBER) dissertation and research grants, Compton Africa Peace Fellowship, Spencer Fellowships administered by the College of Education for specific international projects, and National Science Foundation ethnographic field research awards administered by the Department of Anthropology.

MSU graduate students also competed successfully for $192,230 in individual international research fellowships in 2004-05. These include Fulbright graduate study fellowships, Fulbright-Hays Doctoral Dissertation Research Abroad (DDRA) awards, National Science Foundation Doctoral Dissertation Research Improvement (DDRI) awards, and Social Science Research Council (SSRC) International Dissertation Research fellowships (IDRF). In addition, foreign graduate students studying international subject matter at MSU received $211,630 in external support during 2004-05 for their graduate study at MSU.

Finally, MSU enabled its graduate students to receive $1,402,120 in research assistantships to work with MSU faculty on externally-funded international projects.

Notes:

1. Sources of information about students
Students studying international subjects were identified in the following ways: (a) recipients of MSU-administered and external international and foreign language study and international dissertation research awards; (b) lists of graduate students maintained by the African Studies Center, Center for Latin America and Caribbean Studies, and Women and International Development; (c) students who received a Graduate School research grant or travel grant to present a paper on an international topic during 2002-03, 2003-04,
or 2004-05; (d) students in foreign language graduate degree programs; (e) students who had a research assistantship during 2004-05 on an externally-funded faculty-led international project; (f) information on the web posted either by an MSU department or the individual student; (g) replies to requests for information about topic of study to students from Africa and Latin America; (h) assistance from faculty members and administrators in a few departments and colleges. (We did not request information from all departments about the topic of research of each of their graduate students.)

2. Sources of information about support to graduate students
Because information was sought about individual students, several confidential sources were consulted, with the commitment that reports would not be copied and that no data about individual students would be revealed. Information was provided on this basis from the Graduate School (grants and fellowships by the Graduate School and colleges and departments), Office of Planning and Budgets (teaching and research assistantships), Office for International Students and Scholars (external funding to Sponsored Students and supplemental MSU funding), and International Studies and Programs (travel grants). Information about externally-funded fellowships and grants awarded by MSU was obtained from the MSU units that administer them. Information about externally-funded fellowships awarded directly to students was obtained from the websites of those programs. Some fellowships and awards by colleges that are not included in the documentation from the Graduate School were found on MSU websites; there probably are other such awards that have not yet been found.

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