

Applying for an NIH R36 Dissertation Grant That is Subject to an NRSA Stipend

These are treated like the NRSA and Paid Through the Student Award System

Before You Apply:

Please meet with Archie Tablada (Psychology Graduate Office) and the Payroll Coordinator (Psychology HR/Payroll), both are in the Psychology Main Office Suite, to discuss the differences between having a Graduate Assistantship through the University (stipend, tuition remission, and benefits) and accepting an R36 Dissertation Grant that allows:

- A salary consistent with the current fiscal year National Research Service Award (NRSA) predoctoral stipend level that is currently less than our GA stipend amount: and
- Up to \$15,000 for additional expenses such as fringe benefits, health insurance for self and family members, travel to scientific meetings, and dissertation research costs. No regular tuition credits are allowed.

Archie can be reached at 301-314-2609 or at atablada@umd.edu and the Payroll Coordinator can be reached at 301-405-2137 or at psycpayroll@umd.edu.

Things to Consider:

R36 recipients (U.S. citizens or permanent residents) are required to commit 100% effort for dissertation research activities and associated didactics.

Stipends provided to R36 grantees are a subsistence allowance and are not considered a salary, so accepting this grant means you will no longer be a University employee and will move off payroll to be paid through the Student Award System. In addition, the R36 stipend levels are lower than the UMD stipends paid to GRAs.

1. First, moving off payroll also means that you will **no longer be eligible for health benefits** provided by the University, and instead must purchase them either through the University Health Center or an outside source.

Note: Fellows who receive an annual stipend of at least \$17,500 in a given year are eligible to receive a reimbursement up to the annual Student Health Insurance Plan (SHIP) premium for individual coverage. Family health insurance is not covered.

For information on the Student Health Insurance Plan (SHIP): <https://www.health.umd.edu/SHIP>

2. Second, if you currently hold a Graduate Assistantship with the Department of Psychology, moving to an R36 Dissertation Grant stipend will mean your monthly pre-tax amount as an R36 grantee will be less than that of a Graduate Assistant.

By declining your assistantship provided by the department, this can have further implications on your funding package so, it is important to discuss with the Graduate Office.

If You Decide to Apply:

Please contact Meredith Tabor (Psychology Grants and Contracts Coordinator) at 301-405-0269 or mtabor@umd.edu, and let her know that you plan to apply and arrange to meet. At that time, please provide confirmation from both Archie and the Payroll Coordinator that you have met with them and discussed how an R36 Grant will affect you.

Things to Consider:

1. If you are currently on UMD payroll as a GA, keep in mind that your health insurance will terminate at the end of the month you select to activate your R36 Grant. For example, if you decide to activate your

Grant on September 1 then you will terminate as an employee as of August 31 and because it is the end of the month, your health insurance will end at the same time. If, however, you decide to activate your award starting on September 5, then you will terminate as an employee on September 4 but your health insurance will not terminate until the end of the month, which will be September 30.

I have met with the Payroll Coordinator and Archie Tablada, and discussed the specifics with my advisor, and I understand that if I accept an R36 I am declining a department assistantship and associated employee benefits, and if applicable, may also be impacting my funding package.

Graduate Student Name

Signature

Date

Advisor Name

Signature

Date

HR/Payroll

Signature

Date

Archilline Tablada – Graduate Office

Signature

Date