

RESEARCH CAREERS NETWORK

5 September 2017

ANNUAL STIPEND UPLIFT INFORMATION PAPER

Background:

- Research Councils support approx. 18 to 24,000 post graduate (mainly doctoral) students at any one time. Each year, the minimum stipend and indicative fee rates are set according to agreed criteria.
- The training grants also incorporate elements for consumables, travel and training, but these vary between research councils and do not form part of the discussion for this paper.
- At the September 2017 RCN meeting, RCN discussed the requirements for the annual stipend and fees uplift. It has been suggested by members of the Operations Oversight Board (OOB) that due to the transition to UKRI, a number of cross council groups would need sight of the planned uplift.
- The plan is to submit an information paper on the proposed new rates to the following groups:
 - RISAB – Information paper for the 13th September meeting
 - OOB – Information paper for the 4th October meeting
 - FDN – Information paper for 9th October meeting
 - RCN – Review and creation of final recommendation paper at 14th November meeting
- A final recommendation paper would then be submitted to the UKRI Design and Delivery Sub-Board meeting for approval on the 4th December meeting.
- This paper provides details of the new rates for the 2018/19 uplift.

Action:

- RISAB members are asked to:

REVIEW the proposal for the stipend and fees uplift and provide feedback

Further information:

Contact:



Email:



Tel:



Annual Stipend and Indicative Fees Uplift for 2018/19

The current rates for 2017/18 are:

- Research Councils UK Indicative Fee Level: £4,195
- National Minimum Doctoral Stipend: £14,553.

Indicative fee and minimum stipend levels for the current academic year were agreed by OOB at their December 2016 meeting. These agreed fee and stipend levels applied from the following October.

However, Training Grants are 4-9 years duration. To calculate the level of a training grant, Research Councils need to make some assumptions about future levels of fees and stipends on those types of grants where the total cost is built up from a per student cost. Only the rates for the next academic year are published. The forecast rates are for distribution to research councils to ensure the same rates are used by all councils when calculating training grants.

Training grants are not indexed in Siebel which has resulted in the requirement to use forecasts when calculating the cost of training grants. They do not follow the standard profiles that were developed for research grants and are profiled based on the number of students the grant is supporting at that time. Training grants are also not subject to FEC and are therefore awarded at 100%.

Based on the GDP figures, the new amounts would be as follows:

Proposed Rates for 2018/19 and forecast rates for the next 2 years

Academic year	GDP	Stipend (£)	Fee (£)
2017/18		14,553	4,195
2018/19	2.1%	14,859	4,283
2019/20	1.9%	15,141	4,365
2020/21	2.0%	15,444	4,452
2021/22	2.0%	15,753	4,541

GDP figures are taken from the following source:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/gdp-deflators-at-market-prices-and-money-gdp-september-2016-quarterly-national-accounts>

Please note that where London Weighting is applied, a further £2K a year is added to the stipend figures used in calculating training grants

Details on any proposed uplift / expansion of London Weighting will be included in this section (after the RCN meeting on the 5th September)