



PIER RA Stipend Matching Grant

PIER is glad to announce a new RA Stipend Matching Grant for faculty of the Economics Department starting in the 2015/16 academic year. The goal of this program is to contribute to the faculty's efforts to seek outside funding for supporting RA positions for students in good standing in the Department's PhD program, and to help the Department fill the RA positions for which the Graduate School covers tuition, fees and health insurance. These positions require faculty to pay the RA's stipend through grants or research funds. For the 2015/16 academic year, the RA's stipend is estimated at about \$12,700 per semester (the exact figure will be determined shortly).

The PIER RA Stipend Matching Grant offers up to two grants for 50 percent of a semester's RA stipend. The program works on a matching-funds basis. Hence, faculty provides funding for one-half of the semester stipend (about \$6,350) and PIER matches that contribution with the second half of the cost, so that the semester RA stipend is fully covered. This grant is funded with the net revenue from the PIER Policy Tools Workshop, and hence it will only be available when the net revenue of the Workshop in the preceding year allows PIER to support it, at the discretion of the PIER director.

The faculty funds can come from a variety of sources, including NSF, NIH, Penn-established research accounts, and Penn internal grants (e.g. Levy Center grants from Wharton), and others may be allowable (the business office should be contacted to confirm if a different source of funds qualifies).

Applications for this grant should be submitted to the PIER program administrator Cheryl Dorn at pier@sas.upenn.edu before August 20, 2016. All full-time tenured and tenure-track Economics Department faculty are eligible to apply. Faculty should have secured the funding to cover their half of the RA stipend before applying. Faculty can combine funds and present a joint application for one grant. The application should include the following information:

- 1) The source of the funds for the faculty's contribution.
- 2) The name and year of the student who would take the RA position. The student needs to be in good standing and in the second-to-fifth year of the Economics PhD program. The grant will be disbursed only to fund the half RA stipend for the student named in the application (partitioning the grant for multiple RAs or using the funds in any other form is not allowed).
- 3) The CV of the student.
- 4) A letter of recommendation for the student from a faculty member, preferably the student's main advisor.
- 5) A couple of paragraphs with details of the research work, the RA's duties, the funding available, the total number of RAs involved, and any other information that can be useful for documenting the merits of the application.

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