



PIER 2020-21 RA Stipend Matching Grants: Call for Applications

PIER will be offering again in the next academic year the RA Stipend Matching Grants introduced in 2015. The program works on a matching-funds basis: Faculty provides funding for one-half of the semester stipend of a research assistant and PIER matches that contribution with the second half of the cost, so that the full semester stipend is covered. For the 2020/21 academic year, an RA's stipend will be \$13,608.50 per semester. This grant is only available if earnings from the PIER Policy Tools Workshop can fund it, at the discretion of the PIER director, and if the Department has available RA positions that require only stipend payments.

Applications should be submitted to the PIER program coordinator, Cheryl Tracy, at catracy@sas.upenn.edu (with copy to the PIER director at egme@sas.upenn.edu) before June 30, 2020. All full-time tenured and tenure-track Economics Department faculty are eligible. Faculty should have secured funding to cover their half of the RA stipend (\$6,804.25) before applying. These funds can come from a variety of sources, including NSF, NIH, Penn research accounts, Penn internal grants, and others may be also be allowable (the business office should be contacted to confirm if a different source of funds qualifies for RA funding). Faculty can combine funds and present a joint application for one grant, but each faculty member can only apply once per year. The application should include the following:

- 1) The source of the funds for the faculty contribution.
- 2) The name and year of the student who would take the RA position. The student must be in good standing and in the third-to-sixth 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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