**25% Coverdell RA/TA Appointment Letter Template**

**Instructions:**

1. **Update all areas highlighted in gray**
2. **Edit/Remove yellow highlighted text as applicable**
3. **Put on unit letterhead**
4. **Send to** [**grad-appointments@asu.edu**](mailto:grad-appointments@asu.edu) **to confirm Graduate College support**
5. **Obtain signatures**
6. **Send to student as a PDF**
7. **Upon receipt of signed copy from student, send copy to** [**gcfellowships@asu.edu**](mailto:gcfellowships@asu.edu)

**Any changes to recruitment or appointment letters or any requirements that deviate from the provided templates (including requirements specific to the appointing unit) must receive prior approval from the graduate program director, department or school director and college-level financial administrator. Once those approvals have been obtained, you should submit your request (using track changes) to** [**grad-appointments@asu.edu**](mailto:grad-appointments@asu.edu) **for Graduate College and OGC review.**

**Standard appointment dates for AY2025/26**

* **For fall only: 8/18/25 to 1/4/26**
* **For academic year: 8/18/25 to 5/24/26**
* **For spring only: 1/5/26 to 5/24/26**

<Date>

<First and Last Name> ASU ID #: <Ten-Digit ID>

Electronically Delivered Degree Plan: <Program Name, MS/PhD>

Dear <First Name>,

We are pleased to offer you a Paul D. Coverdell Fellowship including an appointment as a 25% Graduate <Research/Teaching> <Assistant/Associate> <RA/TA> (10 hours per week) for the <20XX-XX academic year/20XX Fall semester/20XX Spring semester> in the <unit name>.

This position reports to <first name last name> and you will be responsible for <include specific duties and responsibilities of the appointment here; if TA position, provide course number/dates/times>.

This <RA/TA> appointment is subject to the “Appointment Terms and Conditions” stated below. To accept this appointment, you must sign and return this document to <insert name/email address> by <insert date>, otherwise the appointment will be terminated.

Sincerely,

<Name>

<Title/Position>

**Appointment Terms and Conditions**

Appointment Start/End Date

For this <academic year/semester> appointment, your start date will be <xx/xx/xxxx> and the end date of this appointment will be <xx/xx/xxxx>.

If you fail to start your appointment on the designated start date, you will be deemed to have abandoned the appointment, and the appointment will automatically terminate. In that event, you forfeit the stipend, the tuition award, and any other benefits that would have come to you because of the appointment.

Stipend and Payment of Stipend

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This appointment provides financial support in the form of a stipend in the amount of <$6,636/$13,272> for the <semester/academic year> (the ASU minimum stipend for AY2025/26). This 25% FTE, 10 hours per week appointment will be implemented through Arizona State University’s payroll system, and your stipend will be paid out in installments on a bi-weekly basis. During this appointment, you will receive a rate of <$663.60> per pay period during the <semester/academic year> pay periods (xx/xx/xxxx – xx/xx/xxxx)> in which you are appointed. **Please see the** [**ASU payroll calendar**](https://cfo.asu.edu/payroll-calendars) **for information about when you will receive your first paycheck.** There are 26 pay periods annually, 20 in the academic year and 6 in the summer semester.

Additional Funding

You are also eligible to receive a Graduate College University Grant of up to $2,500 for the academic year and a matching need-based fellowship of $2,500 from the <School of xxxxx> for a total of $5,000 for the academic year, based on financial need. You are required to have a 2025-26 FAFSA on file by July 1, 2025, and demonstrate an unmet financial need as determined by federal and university financial aid standards. Payment will be made directly to your ASU student account and will show as a credit to your account each semester based on actual charges. These fellowship amounts will be split as applicable at the beginning of the Fall <20XX> semester and at the beginning of the Spring <20XX> semester.

Additionally, you have been awarded a <University Graduate Fellowship> (or other fellowship funding), in the amount of $<x,xxx> per <AY/semester>. Your fellowship <award/awards> will be disbursed in two increments: <$X,XXX> at the beginning of the Fall <20XX> semester and <$X,XXX> at the beginning of the <Spring 20XX> semester.

Tuition Award

As a 25% <RA/TA>, you will receive a partial tuition award (reflected as RA/TA Remission on your student account). For a typical 25% assistantship, you would be responsible for 50% of the Arizona base resident tuition costs. However, as a Coverdell Fellow, the Graduate College will provide an award for the remainder of resident tuition.

The current annual value of the tuition award for students enrolling in 9 credit hours is $15,174/$30,348 for international, $13,905/$27,810 for non-residents and $6,470/$12,940 for residents. Additional credit hours may provide an additional benefit. Your award will be based on your actual tuition and will not exceed those charges. Additional credit hours may provide an additional benefit.

Health Insurance

The 25% appointment discussed above **does not** provide premium coverage for ASU individual health insurance. Please note, if you need health insurance, you may still select that option when registering for classes on myASU; if you decline, you will be without coverage from the university. These premiums and/or premiums for any other insurance plan will not be covered.

***OR***

The Coverdell Fellowship provides premium coverage for ASU individual health insurance in the form of *fellowship funding* to be applied to your student account for ASU Health Insurance Costs. The current estimated value of the ASU health insurance premium is <$1,045 for Fall/$1,720 for Spring/$2,765 for the academic year>. Please note, students must enroll for health insurance at the time of registration; if a student declines, they will be without coverage from the university. The university will not cover premiums for any other insurance plan.

Fees and Program Tuition

This fellowship does not cover university mandatory fees, program tuition and/or fees for the academic year or summer sessions; these are your responsibility. For more information of the ASU cost of attendance visit <https://students.asu.edu/standard-cost-attendance>.

Financial Support Disclaimer

The financial support associated with this appointment provides a stipend intended to assist with your academic and living expenses during your graduate studies at Arizona State University. While the stipend is a valuable resource for many students, its ability to meet all expenses will depend on personal circumstances and financial planning. You are responsible for evaluating your financial needs and planning accordingly. Additional funding may be available through fellowships, scholarships, financial aid, or employment opportunities beyond this appointment.

Financial Aid Impact

If you have applied for and/or received financial aid, acceptance of this assistantship may impact your financial aid eligibility. Please consult Financial Aid and Scholarship Services if you have additional questions.

Appointment Duration

RA/TA appointments are for a specified duration as outlined in the appointment letter. There is no expectation for continued appointments. Therefore, this appointment automatically expires at the end of the appointment period without further notice of termination. Renewal of appointments are subject to, and contingent upon, the continuing availability of funds, satisfactory academic progress, performance, the needs of the unit, and other factors as determined by a student’s academic unit and appointing unit

Appointment Contingent on Funding Availability

The RA/TA appointment is contingent on the availability of funds to support the appointment and may terminate if funding is no longer available.

Taxes

Please note that your assistantship stipend will be subject to appropriate tax deductions, and it is your responsibility to understand the costs of benefits and tax implications of your appointment. If you have any questions about the tax implications of your appointment, please consult your tax advisor. ASU staff does not provide tax advice.

Graduate Assistant Training (TA/RA)

Graduate Assistant Training provides valuable information and resources and is required for all new graduate RAs and TAs. These materials are also available to GSAs. Please visit the training portal to complete any new ASU training requirements.

The trainings are a combination of ASU required trainings as well as Graduate College trainings. Failure to complete the required trainings could result in the termination of your graduate assistantship.

To register for the Program, please visit <https://graduate.asu.edu/current-students/enrich-your-experience/professional-development/graduate-assistant-training-tara>.

New TA orientation for Fall 2025 will be held on Friday, August 1, 2025, from 12-1:30 p.m. Please register by visiting <https://specialevents.asu.edu/ereg/newreg.php?eventid=840765&>.

Additionally, the Graduate College offers the Teaching Assistant Field Guide which is available to all teaching assistants via [Canvas](https://canvas.asu.edu/enroll/B3M3TG). Designed as an online reference tool, the TA Field Guide includes modules offering an introduction to the TA experience, instructional strategies, and classroom management and includes onboarding checklists, policy and procedure information, best practices and asynchronous discussion space.

Additionally, the Graduate College offers the Research Assistant Field Guide which is available to all research assistants via [Canvas](https://canvas.asu.edu/courses/89088). Designed as an online reference tool, the RA Field Guide includes modules offering an introduction to the RA experience, best practices for working with your supervisor, and how to build on your experience.

TAs and RAs should review their respective field guides within 14 days of the effective date of their appointments.

Required Training

Before undertaking your responsibilities, (e.g., first day of classroom, lab or other student-facing responsibilities), you are required to complete the training modules outlined below. All trainings can be found at <https://graduate.asu.edu/current-students/funding-opportunities/graduate-appointments-and-assistantships/resources-for-students/training-and-orientation>

The following trainings can be completed **between signing of the Appointment Letter and processing of RA/TA position in the ASU payroll system**:

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Title of Training** | **Location of Training** | **Frequency of Training** |
| [Academic Freedom Orientation Lesson](https://youtu.be/IQ00CpyW3wA) | Web-based | Once |
| [Community of Care: Welcome Sun Devils](https://eoss.asu.edu/communityofcare?_ga=2.88067674.354212508.1624893785-360886073.1615820093) | Canvas | Once and each time it is updated |
| [Graduate Violence Prevention Course](https://canvas.asu.edu/enroll/THWB4C) | Canvas | Once |

The following trainings should be completed **after** **processing of RA/TA position in the ASU payroll system:**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Title of Training** | **Location of Training** | **Frequency of Training** |
| Information Security Awareness Training | Workday Learning | Annually |
| Arizona Public Service Policy | Workday Learning | Once |
| ASU - Your Duty to Report & Preventing Harassment and Discrimination | Workday Learning | Every 2 years |
| Community of Care Training for Employees | Workday Learning | As needed |
| FERPA Tutorial for System Access | Workday Learning | Once |
| Fire Safety | Workday Learning | Annually |
| Research and Academic Integrity | Workday Learning | Once |
| Inclusive Communities | Workday Learning | Every 2 years |
| [Seeds of Sustainability](https://sustainability-innovation.asu.edu/what-you-can-do/) | Canvas | Once |

Responsible Conduct of Research Requirement **[Required only for RAs on sponsored accounts]**

All RAs funded by sponsored accounts must take the [RCR- Graduate Student and Postdoctoral Researcher Responsible Conduct of Research](https://researchcompliance.asu.edu/responsible-conduct/) training. Available through CITI course, this required training must be completed once.

Research Integrity

Research integrity is the cornerstone of all research activities at ASU. Anyone conducting research must practice intellectual honesty, including in proposing, designing, conducting, and reporting the results of experiments and other research; in collecting, handling, inputting, cleaning, wrangling, analyzing, and interpreting data; and in attributing credit for ideas, research, results, authorship, and other work. Researchers must also conform to applicable ethical standards and any policies, laws, regulations, or rules governing grant or other research funding sources.  For more information, visit the ORIA Research Compliance [website](https://researchcompliance.asu.edu/responsible-conduct/research-misconduct/).

Work Limits

The primary purpose of an appointment is to assist graduate students in successfully completing an academic program. If during the appointment a graduate assistant is offered and would like to accept another appointment or employment opportunity at Arizona State University, they must ensure that the combined appointments will not exceed the allowable FTE as outlined at <https://cfo.asu.edu/aca-faqs-undergraduate-graduate-student-workers>.

Graduate assistants may not serve in any ASU role or a combination of roles exceeding 50% FTE (20 hours per week) during the Fall and Spring semesters. Graduate assistants may be appointed up to 100% FTE (40 hours per week) during semester breaks and summer semester appointments. However, graduate assistants may not average more than 62.5% FTE (25 hours per week) in the ACA calendar year (October through September) as measured by the Affordable Care Act. You will be terminated from your appointment if you exceed this limit and will not be eligible for reappointment for 26 weeks.

International students on F-1 or J-1 visas may not exceed 20 hours per week (50% FTE) during the fall and spring semesters, while they are concurrently enrolled and cannot hold an appointment past degree conferral date. Please refer to current policies on the [ISSC webpage](https://issc.asu.edu/f-1j-1-students/employment/on-campus).

Intellectual Property Policies and Assignment of Intellectual Property

Data, including but not limited to lab notes, results of analyses, research notes, research data reports, and research notebooks, comprise a category of intellectual property covered by The Arizona Board of Regents (ABOR) policy 6–908, <https://public.powerdms.com/ABOR/documents/1499354>. By accepting this appointment and signing below, you understand and acknowledge that you assign to Arizona State University any right, title and interest you have in and to any intellectual property you create or develop in connection with your role.

Unit, Departmental, or Program-Specific Terms

The Coverdell Fellowship requires that I maintain good academic standing in the <xxxxx> program. I understand that the unit in which this assistantship is assigned or the program in which I am enrolled as a student may have additional requirements or expectations. In addition, I will refer to the unit academic handbook for my program **[**insert web link here as applicable**]** for additional policies and information. I understand I will work with my supervisor regarding specific assignments, to understand how I will be supervised, and the performance review process.

In addition to the academic requirements, the core expectation of U.S. Peace Corps is that Coverdell Fellows provide service or benefit to an underserved domestic community. This is a minimum of 300 hours per academic year. Each academic program will have expectations for how this will be completed. The service opportunity can be designed to provide practical professional experience and supplement your academic studies. If your academic unit requires an internship as part of your degree program, those hours may dually satisfy your Coverdell service requirement.

All ASU’s Coverdell Fellows will be required to:

* participate in two Peace Corps events per semester - a calendar of Peace Corps events will be made available each semester
* participate in one professional forum event within their academic college each semester and report back to your unit Coverdell Coordinator

Graduate Assistant Handbook

Please review the [Graduate Assistant Handbook](https://graduate.asu.edu/sites/default/files/2025-01/Graduate-Assistant-Handbook.pdf) for additional information and an overview of Arizona State University policies and support services pertinent to teaching and research assistants and associates.

Credit Hour Requirement

This appointment is conditioned upon your maintaining enrollment in a minimum of <insert number> **[must be at least 6]** non-audit credit hours each during Fall and Spring semester appointments, and a minimum of one non-audit credit hour for summer semester appointments. Failure to maintain enrollment in the minimum required hours will result in the termination of your appointment.

Academic and GPA Requirements

This appointment is conditioned upon your being and remaining in good academic standing and maintaining a <insert number> **[must be at least 3.0]** GPA. Failure to maintain good academic standing or to maintain the required GPA will result in the termination of your appointment.

University Provided Email

Graduate assistants are required to use the MS Exchange for ASU email account and address provided by ASU as part of their assigned appointment responsibilities and for any communications related to those responsibilities and any other University business. All communications from the University will come via the University provided email address and this account should not be forwarded to other email service providers.

Applicable Laws, Rules, Regulations, and Policies

This appointment is subject to all applicable federal and state laws, as well as all rules, regulations, and policies that are set by the Arizona Board of Regents (ABOR) and Arizona State University. These include, but are not limited to, the Student Code of Conduct and Disciplinary Procedures and the Prohibition Against Discrimination, Harassment, and Retaliation.

Background Check  
This appointment is contingent upon the satisfactory outcome (as determined by the university) of the pre-appointment screening activities (including reference check of former employment, verification of ability to work in the United States, and a  [background check](https://cfo.asu.edu/background-fingerprints), which depending on the position, may require a [ﬁngerprint check](https://cfo.asu.edu/background-fingerprints)) required under Arizona State University policy ACD 126 and Arizona Board of Regents policy 6-709. Please be advised that the Arizona Board of Regent’s policy provides that misrepresentation of an individual’s qualifications or credentials in securing employment at the university may be grounds for dismissal.

Voluntary Resignation

If you decide to leave your appointment prior to the end of the appointment term, you are required to submit a written letter of resignation to your advisor (or committee chair), the Director of your unit, and to the Graduate College at least one week in advance of the effective date of resignation.

Involuntary Termination of Appointment

This appointment may terminate based on a reduction in, or the loss of, funding available to the University, a change to the work by a third party such that there is insufficient work to justify the appointment, poor performance, unprofessional conduct, violation of ABOR or ASU policies or rules, or failure to satisfy any term or condition of this appointment.

Financial Impact of Early Termination of Appointment

The early termination of your appointment, whether it results from your resignation or the involuntary termination of the appointment, may result in the forfeiture of the stipend, the tuition award, and any other benefits that would have come to you because of the appointment. In such circumstances, you will be charged for the full tuition amounts.

In limited circumstances when the involuntary resignation results from no fault of the student, salary will end as of the date of termination, but the full tuition award for the semester will remain in place.

Financial Support Disclaimer

*Insert finalized disclaimer*

Offer Acceptance

To accept this appointment, you must sign and return this document to <insert name/email address> no later than <Insert date>, <20XX>. This appointment is automatically terminated if your signed acceptance is not received by that date.

**By signing below, I certify that I have read, understand, and agree to all of the terms and conditions of the above-referenced appointment and I accept the appointment.**

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First Name Last Name Signature Date

Funding Source and Gportal Financial Information

CC:

PG/GF/GR:

HR Dept Code:

Faculty Supervisor ID: