PhD students in the department of Anthropology are typically funded through a combination of TA, RA, and Fellowship positions. The Department views graduate assistantships as an integral part of graduate students’ education but maintains a position that student employment should in no way slow the student’s progress toward timely completion of the Ph.D. degree. Overall the Department of Anthropology at the University of Kentucky rates very favorably in terms of graduate student support, when compared to anthropology departments in other large research universities in the US. The department does not currently offer funding for M.A. students. Please note: The department offers several additional sources of graduate student funding for research and travel (e.g., Adelski, Cliggett, Abbott-Jameson, O'Dear, Legacy, etc.). More information about these awards can be found on the Student Support page of the department’s website.

Guidelines for Ph.D. funding are below. Students are encouraged to speak with the DGS about any questions they have regarding funding policies and/or eligibility.

- Ph.D. students are eligible for funding during the first three years in the program. After completing their dissertation research, they are eligible for one additional year to support data analysis and dissertation writing.
- Ph.D. students are often able to secure funding from sources outside of the department (e.g., LACLAS, Pres U!, Appalachia Center). These outside positions do not ‘count’ towards the four years of departmental funding eligibility. However, in all cases, progress to degree according to the departmental timeline will be a primary criterion for departmental funding decisions (alongside information provided in the annual student progress report).
- Funding decisions are made on an annual basis and funding in one year does not guarantee funding in the next year. Students with outstanding incomplete grades will not be eligible for funding, except in exceptional cases (e.g., severe illness, death in family, etc.).
- Periodically, the faculty may amend the departmental graduate student funding guidelines. Ph.D. students will be subject to the funding guidelines in place when they first joined the department, unless the changes would benefit their funding status.

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