



## All about financial AID-

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### What is financial AID?

“AID is not free money, one need to work to get money!”

The following form of support is what I refer to as financial AID

- GRA-Graduate Research Assistantship Task: work under a prof , research
- GTA-Graduate Teaching Assistantship Task: Help a prof in class, grading, Lab -
- GA-Graduate Assistantship Task: Work for department eg:webmaster
- Fellowship (rare) Task: Paid for research to very talented guys

### And NOT

- SCHOLARSHIP of \$2000 or \$3000, partial waivers given by some schools, this is not AID. This is a trap!

### Fee?

International students are expected to take 9 credit hours (3 courses) and the general fee for this will be

Out state fee: \$ 4000 to \$ 9000 per SEM

Instate fee: \$2000 per SEM to \$4000 per SEM

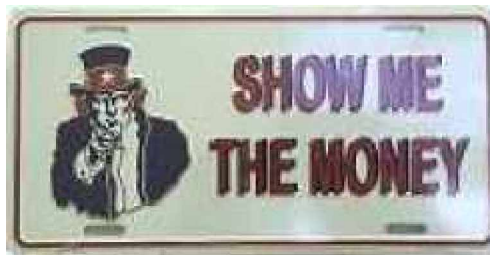
International students are supposed to pay out state fee but with a TA or RA from the university you pay instate fee; some Univs even waive instate fee for RA's or TA's

### What do we get if we have TA, RA or GA?

University will waive the students out-state fee and pay you salary- if you get a 10 hour RA the general salary is 600-700 per month and a 20 hour RA/TA makes 1200-1500\$ a month. (Based on the pay rates of the school). If you get a RA for 10 hours, if you want you can work for 10 hours ion library or any where in the campus, International students are allowed to work for 20 hours a week.

### “I got waiver of \$ 3000, I got AID”- NO (Why scholarship is not AID)?

Partial waivers are given generally in schools (low ranked schools), which don't have money/grants/resources to conduct research and thus no money to pay the students as a RA/TA/GA- Generally students who get a partial waiver never end up getting an RA or TA, in other words you are given 3000 and made to pay 20,000.



Fee per semester in such schools is generally high, say 7000 per SEM @ 4 sems will be a total fee of over 25,000 USD. Now these schools attract the students by offering a waiver of \$ 2000-5000, but the truth is you are paying the remaining \$ 20,000. Trust me this is how it works.

Education Sector in the US Is a big business, these guys are here to make money, the Education sector in US makes close to 15 billion dollars which is more than what India makes on IT per anum (we call our selves as the IT capital of word, huh)



**Naveen you are wrong – “my school said I got 3000\$ waiver now I may get RATA also after I come to US?**

These schools first of all don't have many Assistantships (TA's or RA's), they will have some but Look when every student is given 3000\$ waiver, every student who applied to this school and got an admit come here bcos of that waiver, so result more competition. Finally you won't get AID?

Not Convincing! Ok, let me defend --What are top ranked schools? Schools that have research money and grants and places where there are many Undergraduate students attending.

“We are masters- Graduate students, why are we bothered about undergrads”- TA or teaching assistant positions are given based on the number of undergrad students, if school is a good school and more number of Americans attend it; we have more number of TA's and more number of Campus jobs- Also federal grants to schools and the other Govt agencies also depends on number of undergraduate students, if school has good number of UG's they good federal grants. Bottom line Department and profs have money to do research and they hire us to work. Just think: So now your school has not many Under-grads where will it create the TA positions?

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#### **General Trend**

- 80 % of students in top 60-70 ranked schools get some form of support or the other
- 40-60 % of students get financial aid in first semester and the remaining get financial aid after second semester.
- Getting funding from India is hard/ rare as a professor can not decide if you a good match for his research plus he does not know the Grand he has in hand /Projects.
- Generally the order of funding (good to bad) in many Univs
  - Biomed, Nano , Medical research in Engineering
  - Civil engineering/ Metallurgy, Ceramics, Physics, Chemistry /sciences
  - Mechanical and Chemical/Pharmacy
  - EE (some areas like image processing, electromagneticz can have good chances)
  - CS (why? More competition plus people with good experience come to do MS, profs pick them ; so plan to get in to schools which have huge campus, eg: medical schools)

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#### **I got ADMIT in a top ranked school but other safe school gave me waiver where do I go?**

Majority of the student community would go for schools, which offer Waiver now, but go to the good school. Even if you don't get in first SEM you get AID in second SEM, you make good money and can clean the loans you made by paying the first SEM fee- Plus there is a three-letter word called as “JOB”, better the school, better the chances of Job and better the salary. Here you are paid on your talent, not experience – I also did Masters he also did masters – we get same pay – NOPE – even guys at work who graduated from same univ can be paid differently. These guys recognize talent and pay according to your skills

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#### **Bottomline:**

This is a Snakes & ladder game – Every step you make is like climbing up a like a ladder, your initial steps will decide your career. Make a wise decision –

Hope it makes sense to some one-

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