FAQS

Voluntary Incentive Program (VIP)
Research (Tuition) Incentive Assistantship (RIAS)

1. What is the Voluntary Incentive Program (VIP)?
   A new funding model designed to support new Ph.D. graduate assistantships through the return of revenue to research grant-funded investigators and their departments. The program has been expanded to include new and existing training grants.

2. Who can benefit from the VIP?
   Any principal investigator and their home department that is awarded a research or training grant which included the cost of full-time in-state tuition for graduate research assistant(s).

3. How much funding is returned to the principal Investigator's home department?
   In exchange for one full-time in-state tuition charged to a training grant, 1.5 times the university’s base tuition rate will be returned to the principal investigator’s department. These monies must be used to cover the cost of an assistantship for additional Ph.D. student(s) (limit two exchanges/training grant) and must be deployed within one year.

4. How does the home department receive the 1.5 times the tuition cost funds once the grant has been awarded?
   To receive a general funds allocation of 1.5 times the base tuition rate, a new general fund account should be established to receive this budget allocation. An account addition request form should be completed and submitted to the Accounting Department. The request form is located at http://www.busfin.uga.edu/forms/accounting_request.pdf and should have the type of account filled in with VIP tuition funds. An account project number of 970 will be assigned. For most departments, the account number will be 1025GRxxx970. This account will then be used to submit a budget amendment to pick up the 1.5 times the tuition costs general funds allocation. The additional Ph.D. assistantships will be charged to the new account.

   To budget RIAS funds a department will need to prepare a budget amendment and offset the account using their contingency account number. In remarks you should include:
"RIAS funds" along with the restricted account charged and the names of the students for whom the grant paid. Please call the Budget Office with any questions (706) 542-2802.

5. **What can the returned funds be used for?**
   This program is designed to support additional PhD research assistantships and should only be used toward that initiative. Funding should be redeployed within one year.

6. **Will VIP research assistantships still receive a tuition reduction?**
   Yes. A new attribute code, RIAS, has been created in the Graduate School’s Grad Status database in order to monitor students receiving this type of assistantship. Once this attribute is chosen in Grad Status, the user should proceed in the manner that they would for entering a departmental assistantship.

7. **Will our department need to request the RIAS attribute each semester?**
   Yes. The RIAS attribute can only be put in Grad Status one semester at a time. It will expire at the end of each semester. It is the department’s responsibility to request an attribute for each semester that it will apply.