

FAQS

Voluntary Incentive Program (VIP) **Research (Tuition) Incentive RIAS/RIAT**

1. What is the Voluntary Incentive Program (VIP)?

A new funding model designed to support PhD graduate research assistantships and assist with growing doctoral programs. VIP is a voluntary program in which principal investigators are incentivized to include the costs of full-time in-state tuition in grant applications in which they also budget for graduate research assistant(s). (Note: budgeting for a graduate research assistant is not required for training grants.)

2. Who can benefit from the VIP?

Any principal investigator and the department that is awarded the research grant which included the cost of full-time in-state tuition for graduate research assistant(s).

3. How much funding is returned to the department that is awarded the research grant?

The awarded research grant must include in its budget, the cost of full-time in-state tuition for a graduate research assistant(s). The home department will receive a return of 1.5 times the tuition cost from the University of Georgia.

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 tuition costs your department financial representative will need to request a new department # in UGA Financial Management System for VIP tuition funds. For tracking purposes, all new VIP department numbers should begin with your department numerical number and then RIAS or RIAT (example: 27RIASXX – for students whose tuition is paid by the grant but the student is paid on an assistantship. 27RIATXX – for students paid on a training grant.) . The following action will need to be taken if you already had VIP funds prior to July 1, 2018 that rolled forward from FY 2018.

- *Request a new RIAS or RIAT department number*
- *Transfer previous awarded funds to new chart string*

- *JV all charges onto the new department chart string*

For picking up the incentive funds, units will send the following information to the University of Georgia Budget Division @ budgets@uga.edu:

- *Requested amount and the breakdown of who the tuition was for and the semester in which it was paid*
- *The corresponding restricted chart string that was charged*
- *The chart string the unit would like the funds placed into. This needs to be a tuition chart string (fund 10500)*
- *The Budget Office will then verify the information and initiate the transfer*

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 \$25 tuition reduction?

Students coded with RIAS will be treated the same as a student who is on an assistantship. These students will receive a \$25 tuition reduction

Students coded with RIAT will be treated the same as a student paid on a training grant. These students do not qualify for a tuition reduction.

7. Will our department need to request the RIAS attribute each semester?

The RIAS/RIAT attributes will roll forward each semester during the FY. The department will need to remove or change the code when the student is no longer supported on the grant. All attribute code are wiped clean at the end of each FY in June.