

Memorandum

Re: Graduate support

From: Graham Leuschke, Associate Chair

To: Uday Banerjee, Executive Committee, Graduate Students

Date: 11 February 2019

This memo is to notify the department and the graduate student body of a new policy. Up until now, the department has not had a concrete policy regarding guaranteed support for graduate students. The language generally used has been that as long as students were making “good academic progress”, they should expect to be supported. This has led to undesirable time-to-degree in several cases, including some current students in their 7th or 9th year.

Going forward, the department will follow the following policy:

Students admitted to the PhD program may expect to be supported, contingent on good academic progress, for 6 years. This support may take the form of Teaching Assistantships or Fellowships or a combination. An additional year of support can be requested in writing by a student’s PhD advisor. In extremely unusual cases it might be partially extended one further year.

Standards for granting additional years of support will be higher for students who entered with a Master’s degree.

The new policy is less restrictive than many of our peer departments, which commonly guarantee support for 5 years only.

Grandfather clause: standards for granting additional years of support will be relaxed for current students (entry date 2018 or earlier).