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Harvard and Yale Act to Increase Their Support for Graduate Students

HARVARD UNIVERSITY announced late last month that it would spend \$4-million more annually to increase support for graduate students. The financing will expand fellowships in the humanities and social sciences and will let science departments phase out teaching requirements in the first year of Ph.D. programs.

The same day, Yale University announced it would increase its standard graduate-student stipend by about 9 percent. The move, which will raise stipends to \$15,000 for the 2002-3 academic year, is part of a series of improvements in financial aid for graduate students in recent years, Yale administrators said.

At Harvard, the \$4-million will support three programs in the Graduate School of Arts and Sciences. Students in the humanities and the social sciences, who currently receive fellowships for their first two academic years and their first summer of study, will now be covered for a second summer of study. In addition, 50 students in the humanities each year will receive "First Research Awards," consisting of a full summer stipend plus \$1,500 toward research or travel expenses.

Science departments will also benefit from the money. They will be given incre-

mental financing to phase out first-year teaching requirements for graduate students and to finance more competitive fellowships and stipends. All graduate students will also receive a customary cost-of-living increase in their annual stipends.

The latest increase in graduate-student aid follows last year's aid increase of \$3.2-

million, bringing the total amount of graduate-aid increases to \$12.8-million over the past five years. Last year, the Faculty of Arts and Sciences contributed \$34-million toward graduate-student support.

Jeremy R. Knowles, dean of Harvard's Faculty of Arts and Sciences, decided to increase graduate-student financing after

several months of study, according to a university news release. Mr. Knowles is out of the country and could not be reached for comment.

Lawrence H. Summers, Harvard's president, has said that increasing graduate-student financial aid is going to be one of his top priorities.

—PIPER FOGG