

Medical School Biomedical Sciences Graduate Programs Bridge Funding Policy

The Biomedical Sciences Graduate Programs under the Office of Biomedical Graduate Research, Education, and Training (BGREAT) will provide bridge funding to support a currently enrolled graduate student in good standing who seeks a one-time “no fault” transfer from the lab of their primary advisor. Bridge funding support will be provided after consultation with the Director of Graduate Studies (DGS) or designated program representative and all options for resolution and/or mediation have been expended.

In order for a graduate student to be eligible for the BGREAT bridge financial support, the following steps are required.

1. The student will consult with the DGS to inform them of the conflict and discuss options for resolution. An appointed graduate program representative may replace the DGS in the consultation process, at the student's request, if there is a potential conflict of interest.
2. If the student and DGS agree, a meeting with the Associate Dean of Graduate Education (ADGE) will be scheduled to discuss the conflict and appropriate next steps.
3. The student will contact the UMN Student Conflict Resolution Center (SCRC) <http://www.sos.umn.edu/> to meet with SCRC staff or Ombuds to receive confidential and impartial options to reflect on the experience and gain insight on how to engage with future supervisors. Since the interactions with the SCRC staff are confidential, and there is no expectation that any information beyond providing confirmation that the student met with someone in that office.
4. Once the consultation with SCRC staff is confirmed, the student, DGS, and ADGE will meet to determine the bridge funding support to be offered, the duration, which should not exceed six months, and expectations to identify a new primary advisor. If a research rotation is required to identify a new lab, the student may rotate with a designated program faculty member for a period not to exceed eight weeks.
 - a) The DGS will confirm prior to the start of the rotation that the faculty member has indicated that they have the capability to continue the student's stipend support beyond the agreed period for the BGREAT bridge financial support, in the event the student accepts an invitation to join that lab.
 - b) The student will be expected to successfully complete any courses taken during this term and to fulfill any requirements to remain in good standing in the program.
5. The student will schedule a mid-rotation meeting with the DGS and ADGE to discuss their progress in this research rotation.
6. In the absence of a decision, mutually taken by the student and the faculty member, to join this lab, the student may be obliged to initiate a second rotation after consulting with the DGS and ADGE for an agreed upon duration.
 - a) The DGS will confirm prior to the start of the rotation that the faculty member has indicated that they have the capability to continue the student's stipend support beyond the agreed period for the BGREAT bridge financial support, in the event the student accepts an invitation to join that lab.
 - b) The student will be expected to successfully complete any courses taken during this term and to fulfill any requirements to remain in good standing in the program.
7. The student will schedule a mid-rotation meeting with the DGS and ADGE to discuss their progress in this second research rotation.
8. If the student elects to or is not invited to join this lab and unable to identify a new research mentor, who will assume ongoing financial responsibility for providing the stipend and fringe

benefits by the end of the period of BGREAT financial support, they will be at risk of being excused from the graduate program.