17. Visiting Graduate Students (VGS) – Non-UC

A VGS is a pre-doctoral graduate student (PhD, MA, MS, MBA, or MD) pursuing research at UCSD related to their degree program at their home institution. The VGS must be enrolled in a degree granting program or equivalent at an institution of higher education other than the University of California. The UC appointment must serve an academic purpose for the unit in which they are visiting. Prior to the visitor's arrival, the appointment must be approved by a faculty sponsor, the department chair or organized research unit (ORU) director, and the Dean of the Graduate Division (See Full Policy).

I. TITLES AND APPOINTMENT CRITERIA:

A. Non-Salaried Visiting Graduate Student - Visitor Graduate (WOS) Title Code 3730

A non-salaried VGS receives financial support for their visit from their home institution (grant, fellowship/scholarship) or personal funds. See “Compensation” below for support level requirements.

A non-salaried VGS does not receive financial support from their UCSD faculty sponsor.

NOTE: Non-salaried Visiting Graduate Students are NOT to be entered into PPS at this time.

B. Salaried Visiting Graduate Student - Title Code 3330 – Junior Specialist

A salaried VGS may receive partial or full support from their UCSD faculty sponsor via the Junior Specialist Title (Title Code 3330). Approval for this title must be requested in advance by submitting an appointment to the Graduate Division. See “Compensation” below for support level requirements.

For data entry guidelines, please see Guide for Visiting Graduate Students

C. Terms of Service

VGS should normally be appointed for periods of no less than three months and may be appointed up to one year at a time. Appointments may be extended up to an additional year with a break in service for a total of two years maximum with appropriate justification.

II. COMPENSATION:

All VGS engaged in research activities at UCSD, and appointed for six months or less, must have financial support that meets the J1 visa requirement of $2400 per month effective 2/1/16 (increased from $1700 per month).
All VGS appointed for more than six months must have financial support comparable to that available to UCSD graduate students enrolled in similar disciplinary programs for the duration of their appointment. The source of support may come from their home institution (fellowship/scholarship or grant), personal funds, and/or salary from UCSD.

Please see the following chart for a list of financial support levels by degree major: VGS Compensation Levels.

Regardless of the source of support, under no circumstances will the appointment of a VGS be approved if the student will receive support less than the minimum requirement for J1 visa holders. Under no circumstances should involvement of a VGS detract from financial support and/or resources that would be otherwise available to registered UCSD graduate students whether domestic or international.

An exception approval is required when a department is requesting a salaried VGS appointment above the amount paid to a registered UCSD graduate student in a comparable department. **NOTE: in all cases the maximum monthly dollar amount for the Junior Specialist title is $3287/mo effective 7/1/15.**

### III. VISITING GRADUATE STUDENT PROCESSING FEE:

Each Visiting Graduate Student (VGS) is **required to pay a $100 nonrefundable processing fee.** This is a one-time fee that covers a period of stay up to 2 years. (Two years is the maximum stay currently allowed for a VGS without an exception to policy.) **An additional $100 nonrefundable processing fee will be charged in the following instances:**

1) the period of stay extends beyond 2 years
2) there is a > 30-day break in the appointment period and a new appointment packet is required

There are two options to pay the processing fee: 1) upon arrival at UCSD, the VGS may pay the fee directly at the UCSD Cashier's Office, or 2) the Sponsoring Department may pay the fee via UCSD recharge. **In all cases,** the Sponsoring Department must supply an index number when submitting the original VGS appointment to the Graduate Division.

The processing fee is due on the 15th of the month following the appointment start date. For example, if the appointment begins October 1, the fee must be paid no later than November 15. If the VGS does not pay the fee by the deadline, the fee will be automatically recharged to the Sponsoring Department. For this reason, it is imperative that Graduate Division is notified of any changes to the appointment period.

### IV. APPLICATION PROCEDURE/APPOINTMENT PACKET:

All VGS must have a UCSD faculty sponsor who will host the visit. Prospective VGS should first contact the department chair or faculty with whom they would like to work and request an invitation. The host faculty and/or department are responsible for preparing and submitting the appointment packet three months prior to the visitor's arrival, in addition to preparing for the arrival (arranging for office space, if applicable). **VGS may not enter the lab or university facility without an official approved appointment.**
The appointment submission process for the VGS is through the Visiting Graduate Student Appointment System (VGSAS). VGSAS is an online administrative portal and database.

To request Department Administrator access to VGSAS, an authorized individual must send an e-mail to vgcoordinator@ucsd.edu. Once authorized, the Department Administrator will have the authority to assign users and user roles for the Sponsoring Department.

The link to VGSAS may be found here: https://vgs.ucsd.edu

The following documents will be required to be uploaded in VGSAS as a condition of the VGS appointment approval process. **All documents must be in submitted in English.**

**Initial Appointment**

1. *UC Patent Acknowledgement/Oath*  
2. Current Curriculum Vitae  
3. Current Proof of Registration (i.e. copy of current transcript or letter from home institution) as a graduate student (PhD, Masters, or MD)  
4. Proof of Health Insurance, submit a **copy** of the completed UCSD International Center "Form C: Health Insurance Memorandum of Understanding"

* The Patent Acknowledgement Form with original signatures should be submitted. Please note that the Patent Acknowledgement Form may be uploaded through VGSAS in lieu of the original in order to expedite the review process, and under the condition that the original form will be submitted as soon as the visitor arrives. The original form must be submitted no later than 30 days after the appointment begin date to prevent delay/denial of future appointments. For non-salaried appointments, forward the original document complete with VGS and witness signatures to VGS Coordinator at MC 0003. For salaried appointments, forward the original completed document with required new hire paperwork to Payroll at MC 0952.

For **International Visitors**: Appointment material should be submitted at least 3 months in advance of the start date, and earlier for international visitors who require a visa. Once the VGS Appointment Form has been approved, the sponsoring department or ORU will submit the appropriate visa paperwork to the International Center at International Center.

Upon arrival, an approved visiting graduate student may obtain a UCSD Campus ID Card. Information on how to obtain a UCSD Campus ID Card is available on the Blink web site at Blink website.

**V. APPOINTMENT EXTENSION:**

The appointment extension process for the VGS is through the Visiting Graduate Student Appointment System (VGSAS).

The following document is required when the VGS/Sponsoring Department is requesting an appointment extension:

- **Current** proof of registration and/or transcript from the home institution
VI. HEALTH INSURANCE:

It is required that all VGS have health insurance coverage 24 hours a day, including time spent at UCSD conducting research.

Effective September 1, 2014, this requirement must be met 1) through the UC San Diego Visiting Scholar Injury and Sickness Insurance Plan offered by Garnett-Powers, 2) through another insurer or 3) be provided by the student’s home country.

To enroll in the Plan offered by Garnett-Powers, visit http://www.garnett-powers.com/academics/sd/ or call toll free 1-888-441-3719. Note: The VGS appointment must be approved by the Graduate Division prior to enrollment in the Plan.

If the VGS has other insurance, it must meet the following requirements to waive the UCSD Plan. If the VGS is international with his/her own coverage, that coverage must also meet these standards that meet or exceed the J-1 Visa requirements, as well as provide this same coverage to the student’s eligible dependents. The minimum levels of coverage that must be offered through the student’s own insurance are:

- $100,000 per accident & illness in medical coverage
- **Annual Deductible** cannot exceed $500 per accident or illness
- Coinsurance cannot exceed 25%
- Medical evacuation coverage must be at least $50,000
- Repatriation coverage must be at least $25,000
- Pre-existing conditions must be covered with a waiting period no longer than 12 months
- Carrier must be at least A- rated or backed by the full faith and credit of the Exchange Visitor's government.

If the student’s insurance meets these requirements, he/she may waive (decline coverage) for the Plan. **The VGS must provide proof of insurance coverage by providing a copy of his/her insurance policy or schedule of benefits written in English. (If the policy is not written in English, the VGS must provide an official translation of the insurance.)** The VGS may either scan and e-mail the document to VABP@Garnett-Powers.com or FAX it to 949-215-2275, attention UCSD Visiting Scholar Services.

Salaried VGS are eligible for Workers’ Compensation at UCSD if injured in the course and scope of their employment.

Workers Compensation coverage is not provided to a Non-salaried VGS.

VII. EXPORT CONTROL

Before agreeing to host a VGS from a foreign country, please review the information from the UCSD Export Control Office. That office can provide further guidance if there is a specific concern. http://blink.ucsd.edu/sponsor/exportcontrol/
VIII. PPS INSTRUCTIONS

Salaried Visiting Graduate Student – Junior Specialist (3330)

1) Complete new hire paperwork as outlined in Chapter 5.

2) Complete new hire bundle
   Please note on the EPD1 screen the Student Status should be “1” = not registered

3) Appointment/Distribution:

   APPOINTMENT LINE
   Type: 5
   Basis: 11
   Pd Ovr: 12
   Appt Begin: See Application
   Appt End: See Application
   Dur: Blank
   Dept Funding source: 6-digit dept. code number
   Title: 3330
   % Full: See Application. Percentage is based on approved comparable department support
   level divided by Jr. Specialist rate, currently $3,287. See VGS Compensation Levels at:
   http://grad.ucsd.edu/_files/visiting-scholars/VG%20Compensation%20Levels.pdf
   F/V: F (fixed)
   Annual: $39,444
   Rt: A (Annual)
   Sch: MO (Monthly)
   Time: N = No Time Sheet or A if exception time reporting is needed
   Lv: Enter as applicable. NOTE: Leave accrual code “D” should no longer be used; it has
   been replaced by “M”. Academic personnel appointed on a fiscal-year basis for 6 months or
   more at 50 percent time or more accrue vacation leave. Non-student academic appointees
   accrue sick leave credit provided the appointment is at 50 percent or more time. See APM
   for further details at:
   http://www.ucop.edu/academic-personnel-programs/_files/apm/apm-730.pdf

   DISTRIBUTION LINE
   Index: Fund source index
   Sub: 0
   Dist %: See application. Percentage is based on approved comparable department
   support level. See VGS Compensation Levels at http://grad.ucsd.edu/_files/visiting-
   scholars/VG%20Compensation%20Levels.pdf.
   Pay Begin: See appointment
   Pay End: See appointment
   Rate/Amount: $3,287.00
   Step: 2
   DOS code: REG
4) BELI Code (EPER Screen): If appointed at 43.75% time or more will qualify for UCSD benefits. See BELI Code Chart for Benefits Eligibility:
http://blink.ucsd.edu/finance/payroll/processes/eligibility.html#1.-Determine-the-employee%27s-BEL

Visiting Graduate Students may “Opt Out” of benefits if covered by home institution. Complete the UPAY 850 Form:
http://atyourservice.ucop.edu/forms_pubs/forms_worksheets/upay850.pdf

5) SEPARATION GUIDELINES: See Chapter 7. Review APM 730 and 710 for information regarding how to handle terminal vacation and sick time.