***BLAZER GRADUATE RESEARCH TRAINEE (FELLOWSHIP) LETTER***

[*Date*]

[*Type Recipient’s Name, Address*]

Dear Mr. / Ms. Student Trainee:

I am pleased to offer you an appointment as a Blazer Graduate Research Fellow in the [***type graduate program name here***] at the University of Alabama at Birmingham. Your appointment as a Blazer Fellow will be for the period of [***1st day of fall term***] to *[****16 months later, 202X***]. During this period, you will receive a monthly payment of [$2,416.66 (STEM programs)/$2,166.67 (non-STEM programs)]. You will also receive up to 9 credit hours per term of graduate tuition and fees, as well as single-coverage student health insurance, should you choose to enroll in UAB’s student health plan. Any coursework taken outside of this program will be at your own expense, and may be subject to non-resident tuition rates. No services are required as a condition of receiving this fellowship.

Appointment as a Graduate Trainee is available only to students with an excellent academic record. You must remain in good academic standing and make satisfactory progress toward your degree in order to continue as a Trainee.

The purpose of this fellowship is to aid in the pursuit of your studies. Your effort during the tenure of this fellowship should be fully devoted to carrying out those activities required by your program, including any original research necessary to fulfill thesis, pre-dissertation, or dissertation requirements as stipulated by the program.

This appointment is intended to help you to be a full-time student, immersed in your graduate program. Accordingly,

1. You must register for, and satisfactorily complete, at least 27 semester hours of approved graduate work each year.
2. You may not engage in any remunerated activities either on or off campus. Exceptions to this rule are rare and require prior approval in writing by the Graduate School Dean.

Appointments as a Blazer Graduate Research Fellow are for 16 months from the first term or enrollment. If recommended by the director of your program, you may receive additional graduate student appointments in subsequent years. At some time during this appointment period, you must meet with your Graduate Program Director or dissertation committee to review your progress as a Graduate Trainee.

You can access the guidelines for graduate trainees via the Internet at [www.uab.edu/graduate](http://www.uab.edu/graduate). Please read this document carefully and discuss any questions that you may have with me.

I strongly encourage you to read IRS Publication 970. These documents will explain the tax status of your award. Unless you are a non-resident alien for tax purposes, UAB will not withhold taxes from your fellowship award. It is imperative for you to fully understand the applicable tax laws and make the necessary provisions to pay any required taxes.

If you are a federal financial aid applicant, this award may affect your aid eligibility. Please contact the Financial Aid Office for further details.

I hope that you will accept this offer by signing this letter in the space below and returning it to me as soon as possible, but no later than [***type date here***]*.*

Sincerely,

[Program Director]

[Graduate Program]

Read and accepted:

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Student’s Signature:  |  | Date:  |  |