



**PennState**

**Astronomy and Astrophysics**

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March 10, 2022

Dear Ho Sang,

On behalf of the Department of Astronomy & Astrophysics at Penn State, I'm happy to notify you that we are upgrading the financial package that we are offering you. Because of the strength of your application, we are delighted to offer you a Braddock-Roberts fellowship for your first academic year (fall and spring semesters). This is in addition to all components of our previous offer. The components of your total financial package now consist of the following:

- A University Graduate Fellowship for your first academic year in the amount of \$31,000. This award will enable you to become involved in research more easily during your first year since you will have no teaching responsibilities and will not need to identify a funded research project.
- A Homer F. Braddock/Nellie H. and Oscar L. Roberts Fellowship in the amount of \$5,000 for your first academic year.
- A research or teaching assistantship for each summer you are here. This year, the 12-week summer salary is at least \$7,812\*. Thus, the total package for the first year is at least \$43,812.
  - \*During summers each student contacts potential research advisors to inquire about the availability of a research assistantship. If none is available, the department will provide a teaching assistantship for that summer.
- A research or teaching assistantship for fall and spring your second academic year in the amount of \$31,000. The total package for your second year is at least \$38,812.
- Financial support for subsequent years through teaching or research assistantships, contingent upon satisfactory progress toward your degree. The current total value of these assistantships, including summers, is \$31,302.
- A full tuition waiver for each year that you are in our program.
- As a Graduate Assistant you are eligible to receive a subsidy in the amount of 80% (for Individual coverage) of the annual premium cost for the Graduate Assistant and Graduate Fellow Insurance Plan. For more information on health insurance, please refer to: <https://studentaffairs.psu.edu/health-wellness/health-insurance/graduate-assistant-fellows-and-trainees>

Feel free to contact me if you have any questions regarding the above package.

Please inform us in writing of your decision no later than April 15, 2022. In accordance with the [Council of Graduate Schools' \(CGS\) resolution](#), we will honor this offer until the April 15 deadline, after which point it will be rescinded unless you are informed in writing that the deadline for a decision has been extended. Although you are under no obligation to accept this offer prior to April 15, please let us know as soon as you have made a decision so that we may extend offers to other prospective students if possible. You may consider other offers of financial support; if you choose to accept another offer of financial support, you must first resign from your acceptance of our offer, either before or after April 15.

Dr. Jason Wright  
Chair, Graduate Admissions

All support is contingent upon satisfactory academic and research progress, satisfactory fulfillment of your assistantship duties, adherence to all university policies and standards, and professional conduct. The offer of a graduate assistantship is also contingent upon successful completion of a background check, which verifies that you have no criminal or other record that would preclude appointment to an assistantship in the University's judgment. You will receive an email from the Penn State Office of Human Resources with a link to complete the online consent and authorization process. The University reserves the right to determine and confirm suitability for assistantship responsibilities. The existence of a criminal conviction will not automatically disqualify an individual from consideration for an assistantship. The University will consider the nature and seriousness of the offense, the nature of the position, the length of time since the conviction and any discrepancies from what was self-reported by the individual.