



University of Pittsburgh

*Kenneth P. Dietrich School of Arts and Sciences
Department of Mathematics*

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April 14, 2020

Dear Nathaniel Stemen:

After careful consideration of your application, I am very pleased to inform you that the graduate committee of the Department of Mathematics has decided to recommend to the Associate Dean for Graduate Studies in the Kenneth P. Dietrich School of Arts and Sciences your admission into the PhD program for the 2019-20 academic year. We believe you have all the attributes required to be a successful member of our program, and the graduate committee was unanimous in support of your application.

As the Associate Dean needs to review and approve admission, this letter does not constitute an official offer of admission. We confidently expect that our recommendation will be approved, and that following that approval you will receive an official offer of admission from the Office of Graduate Studies. That office will process your application only after you indicate that you accept this departmental recommendation. Formal offers of admission are sent by the Office of Graduate Studies and will need to be accepted by April 15, 2019.

In the event that you accept the recommendation and receive an offer of admission, then during the fall of 2020 you would be supported as a *Teaching Assistant (TA)*, and during the spring of 2021 you would be supported by the *Arts & Sciences Graduate Fellowship*, allowing you to focus on your preparation for the Preliminary Exam. This funding will be extended for up to five (5) years of your enrollment as long as you remain a PhD student in good academic standing and make satisfactory progress towards your degree. The specific type of support will be decided on a yearly basis, and our students are typically supported by a *Teaching Assistantship (TA)*, a *Teaching Fellowship (TF)*, *Graduate Student Research (GSR) Assistantships*, or when appropriate, by other external funding. The details of these appointments are as follows:

- Teaching Assistantship. Awarded to students for the first four semesters of teaching, pays \$9,740 per term.¹ Health insurance is provided without additional cost to the student.
- A&S Fellowship. Students are paid \$23,688 per year (or \$11,844 per term). The salary is greater than TA, but health insurance is not included. Fellows have the option to purchase health insurance for \$381.27 per month or provide proof of insurance.
- Teaching Fellowship. Awarded to students who have taught at least 4 semesters, pays \$10,125 per term, and health insurance is provided without additional cost to the student.
- Graduate Student Researcher. GSRs stipends range from \$8,030 to \$11,135 per term. Health insurance is provided without additional cost to the student.

The Department also offers additional TA support in the Summer Term(s). This summer support will depend upon our teaching needs based on enrollment figures. In the summer of 2019, all students requesting support received it. Additionally, depending on the outcome of the current budget process, the 2020-2021 stipend is anticipated to be somewhat higher than the amount indicated.

Note that universities sometimes try to lure grad student recruits by making higher stipend offers. At the University of Pittsburgh, you will receive, in addition to the stipend outlined above, full tuition remission

¹ All salaries noted in this letter are based on the current salary rate, and may be increased in the new fiscal year once University budget is finalized.

(\$19,368 per term value), remission of student fees (\$425 per term value), a no-limit pass to ride city buses for free (\$97.50 per month value), and eligibility to enroll in University of Pittsburgh's Graduate Student group medical plan. Thus, for example, with health insurance (\$381.27 per month value) the total value of the TA award is \$31,163.08 for one semester. The total value of the ASF award is \$31,928 for one semester. We think that this is an attractive financial aid package and hope that you will decide to accept it.

When considering this offer, please note also that Pittsburgh has a lower cost of living than many other big cities. As you ponder your decision, you may find this cost of living comparator useful <http://money.cnn.com/calculator/pf/cost-of-living/>

As a PhD student in the Department of Mathematics, you will have the opportunity to attend courses, pursue doctoral research, and participate in departmental activities. The wide range of interests among our faculty will enable you to identify potential topics ideally matched to your own interests. The training that you receive in our program will make you ideally qualified to pursue your future interests, be it in academia, industry, or the public sector.

We hope you are pleased that you have been recommended for admission and will accept. We ask that you acknowledge receipt of this message by contacting our graduate administrator. **Please inform us of your decision as soon as possible by signing the enclosed copy of this letter and returning it to our graduate administrator.** In the meantime, I would be very pleased to talk with you via telephone or e-mail. I sincerely hope to welcome you as a member of our graduate program this fall.

Sincerely,

Dr. Piotr Hajlasz
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ACCEPTANCE OF RECOMMENDATION

Please sign and return this letter to the department as soon as possible.

- ☐ I accept your recommendation.
☐ I decline your recommendation.

Signature

Date