

Chapter 5. Faculty Salaries and Benefits

Brown University's policy is to determine salaries on the basis of rank, merit, and performance while endeavoring to maintain a fair balance within departments and within the University. Salary levels are meant to be competitive with those offered at peer institutions in the United States and these levels may also be influenced by factors such as the availability of faculty in certain disciplines. Average salaries may thus differ among departments due to market forces. All university non-discrimination policies apply to the setting of faculty salaries.

5.1 Annual Salary Review

The appropriate divisional dean shall review salaries annually for the purpose of ascertaining whether they actually reflect these policies, and shall compile a report which gives the median and average salaries, as well as the range of salaries, within pertinent categories by discipline, rank and length of service, comparing the situation of women and minorities with that of non-minority males. The categories shall be chosen so as to make pertinent comparisons possible, but without compromising the confidentiality of individual salaries, which are disclosed only to department chairs and to administrators who need the information in order to carry out their duties. This report shall be given to the Committee on Faculty Equity and Diversity (CFED), to the FEC, and to the department Chairs.

5.2 Schedule of Salary Payments

Brown University normally follows a practice of paying all tenure-track and teaching-track faculty in twelve equal installments for services rendered during the nine-month (or, in the Division of Biology and Medicine ten-month) academic year. These installments are ordinarily paid from July through the following June. (This schedule may be adjusted for new faculty members whose contracts begin in September.) Thus, for most faculty members, their July and August checks are, in effect, salary advances for their work in the following academic year. If a faculty member receives pay in July and August and, for some reason, does not fulfill their employment obligations during the regular academic year, all or part of the July and August pay may have to be repaid to Brown. Checks for in-coming new faculty are not released by the Office of the Controller until proper authorization is given that office to do so.

5.3 Additional Compensation for Faculty Members Employed by Brown University

An appointment as a full-time faculty member at Brown University carries primary professional responsibility to the University and a level of compensation, in the form of salary and benefits or equivalent, from Brown University commensurate with these responsibilities. Consequently, faculty members are not normally eligible for additional compensation from the University.

However, additional compensation from the University may occur, during the summer and/or the academic year, as long as the normal duties of the faculty member are not reduced in order to fulfill the additional responsibilities. Written requests for consideration of additional compensation must be submitted by the faculty member to the cognizant dean, in advance of the activity, and endorsed by the Chairperson of the department. Requests should contain sufficient information for a determination to be made that the activity qualifies for consideration under this policy and that the faculty member's normal duties are not compromised in any way.

Activities warranting such added compensation should be beneficial to the University and involve services distinct from those which are ordinarily expected of a faculty member. Teaching, research, the advising and counseling of students in the fall and spring semesters, and service to the department and to the University are among those duties normally expected of a faculty member.

Examples of activities considered for additional compensation from the University include:

- summer teaching activities, e.g., for the Division for Pre-College and Undergraduate Programs;
- academic year teaching activities not involving regular or special students of Brown, e.g., the Pfizer Program in the Division of Biology and Medicine; or
- consulting services unrelated to the research or teaching activities of a faculty member and not involving any external contract or grant in which the faculty member has a decision-making role.

Note: The compensation of faculty members during the summer under external grants/contracts is not considered "additional compensation" for the purposes of this policy since the activities performed are ordinarily an extension of those activities performed during the academic year. Faculty will continue to be eligible for such summer salary provided the total commitment does not exceed the period of time allowed them - up to three months, except for faculty in the Division of Biology and Medicine, where the maximum period is two months.

5.4 Charging Academic Year Salaries to Grants and Contracts

5.4.1 Grant Incentive Fund

1. In some cases, faculty may be able to cover academic-year salary from external grants. In general, faculty reporting to the Dean of the Faculty are limited to a maximum of 50% of salary covered in this manner.
2. In general, 70% of the dollar amount of academic-year salary and benefits charged to the grant will be placed in a Grant Incentive Fund (GIF). However, 100% of such funds will be placed in a GIF if they could otherwise have been charged to cover summer salary (in keeping with the rules of the grant) but are

allocated for non-sabbatical academic year salary in order to better reflect the actual distribution of effort over the course of the entire year. (For rules pertaining to sabbaticals, see Chapter 11.) All exceptions require the approval of the Dean.

3. If the funding agency requires any caps to salaries, then the maximum rate at which activity can be charged must not exceed that cap.
4. The normal overhead rate will continue to apply on academic year salaries charged to a grant.
5. The GIF is made available to a faculty member as a flexible research fund, which may be used for legitimate research expenses in accordance with University policy, including cost share on grant applications. As is the case with all research funds, the balances revert to the University when a faculty member resigns or retires.
6. No overhead will be charged when funds are expended from the GIF. If the funds are used to support summer salary or course buy-outs, the prevailing benefits rate will be charged to the GIF.
7. There will be no time limit on the use of balances in a GIF. However, total expenses in any given year may not exceed 50% of the faculty member's academic year salary without prior approval.

5.4.2 Course Buy-Out

Faculty members are generally expected to teach during each semester of the academic year. In order to buy out of a course, the normal teaching load usually must be more than one course in a given semester. The funding required to buy out teaching is calculated from the faculty member's salary and benefits, their teaching load, and the effort allocated to teaching required of different faculty positions, schools, and divisions. The buy-out is subject to the following conditions:

1. Proposals must be made using the Buy-Out Request Form available on the DOF website. The department Chair must assess the impact of the proposal on the department's curriculum. Buy-outs will only be approved if the department's curricular needs can be met.
2. For tenure-track faculty, the course buy-out rate equates to 15% of their academic-year salary and benefits. For instructional faculty (Teaching Professor-track and Professor of Practice-track), the course buy-out rate equates to 20% of salary and benefits.
3. Course buy-outs should generally be funded by external grants or GIF. In no cases may startup funds, annual research funds, departmental funds, or other University funds be used to pay for buy-outs.

5.5 Consulting and Other Incidental Employment Activities

Consulting by faculty of Brown University is a privilege and not a right. Faculty at Brown are expected to devote the bulk of their professional energies to the University. In accordance with the University's conflict of interest and conflict of commitment policy, the University provides that faculty may devote no more than 20 percent effort, or an average of one day per week, to outside business activities or to extensions of their ordinary duties (including teaching) at the University for which they receive additional compensation. More extensive outside activities must receive prior approval from the appropriate divisional dean and could require a concomitant reduction in assigned University duties and compensation.

A faculty member is free to consult or engage in other contractual arrangements during the summer, as long as:

1. They are cognizant that Brown remains the primary employer, continuing to provide a range of customary benefits during such a period
2. they therefore continue to be in compliance with all the Faculty Rules, specifically those pertaining to Conflict of Interest or Conflict of Commitment, and the Patent and Invention Policy
3. they do not "double-dip" in the sense of charging a grant or contract for a summer month (to augment the academic base salary) at a time they are also earning additional compensation from an employer. Note that this does not include incidental income such as book royalties and honoraria for lectures.

In entering into consulting agreements, faculty should make clear that their primary duty is to Brown University and is subject to the University's procedures and policies on intellectual property. Faculty consulting with external organizations must be certain that it is understood that the faculty member is acting in their individual capacity and not on behalf of Brown University.

All consulting activities, whether during the academic year or during the summer hiatus, must be in compliance with the University's Conflict of Interest Policy. Although it is not the intent of the University to infringe on a faculty member's independent consulting research, faculty should be aware that a potential conflict of interest may arise when a university researcher has outside interests that are very close to their university research activities. Thus, faculty entering into consulting agreements which may present a conflict of interest or which are of some extended duration must disclose and discuss the proposed consulting arrangement with the appropriate Dean prior to entering into any agreement with another educational or research institution or an external organization.

Faculty research-related conflicts of interest that are not appropriately disclosed, discussed and managed could compromise public confidence in the integrity of the University's commitment to its core values:

- The commitment to educating students;
- The commitment to academic freedom;
- The commitment to advancing the range and depth of knowledge and understanding of the natural world and our human condition;
- The commitment to the safety of patients under the care of University faculty and participants in research;
- The commitment to open and timely communication and dissemination of knowledge; and
- The commitment to protecting both the appearance and the actual integrity and objectivity of research, instruction and public service.

5.6 Summer Salary

While those faculty who are paid for work performed during the academic year (9 or 10 months) may be compensated during the summer for consulting or other work (e.g. from grants and contracts), the University, as the faculty member's employer, must be assured that summer consulting or other activities do not interfere or conflict with the faculty member's primary obligation to the University. Full-time summer consulting or other contractual arrangements should be reviewed by the appropriate divisional dean and reported on the Conflict of Interest form.

All effort devoted and corresponding salary charged to sponsored projects must be in compliance with sponsor and University policies. Committed effort on a sponsored project should be devoted exclusively to the activity supported by that sponsored project. Other activities performed during the summer months, e.g. any administrative or academic activities, vacation, writing new proposals, may not be charged to sponsored projects.

Note that sponsors may have restrictions on summer salary. Faculty should therefore consult their grant terms and conditions prior to committing summer effort. Any questions regarding sponsor terms or conditions should be directed to the Office of Sponsored Projects.

5.7 Salary Equity Review

If a faculty member believes that their salary is inappropriate, the faculty member should normally express the concern to the department Chair and request a salary equity review. The Chair will share this with the Dean, who will review the faculty member's salary in light of all relevant data and send a written response.

5.8 Benefits

Detailed information about [employment-related benefits is available through the Office of Human Resources](#).

There are in addition some other programs available to Brown faculty:

5.8.1 Faculty Research Travel Fund

The Faculty Research Travel Fund (FRTF) is available to voting members of the Brown campus-based faculty for assistance in meeting the costs of professional travel during any fiscal (budget) year, July 1-June 30. The FRTF is designated to support trips to attend conferences and to do scholarly research or field work. Faculty may apply for reimbursement for up to a maximum of three trips per year, with a total reimbursement cap set on an annual basis. Faculty are also eligible for a limited one-time supplement to present a paper at an international conference or to conduct research internationally. This supplement will not count against the total reimbursement cap. A faculty member on sabbatical leave may apply to the FRTF for aid in supporting travel expenses for scholarly research incurred in the course of one trip during that leave. For more information, [see the Faculty Research Travel Fund webpage](#).

5.8.2 Dependent Care Travel Fund

Funds are available to support faculty who wish to attend academic conferences and/or work with collaborators at other institutions, or have commitments on campus that require additional, after-hours care for their dependents. Awards of up to \$1,500 per year are available to assist tenure-track and teaching-track faculty with expenses incurred in association with professional travel or related on-campus commitments. Examples of expenses that may be supported include additional, above-the-ordinary, hours of care for dependents at home; contracting for childcare at a conference; or even taking a caregiver to a conference or on a short research trip. Spouses, partners, and other family members are not normally eligible for travel expenses or compensation except with prior approval by the cognizant dean. Following federal guidelines, a qualifying dependent is a child under the age of 13 or an older dependent who is physically and/or mentally incapable of self-care.

Application for funding should be made by completing the Dependent Care Travel Fund form found on [this page](#) at least 30 days in advance of the trip. The applicant should include details of the conference or other event, an explanation of its importance for professional development, the name and age of the dependent requiring care, a description of the arrangements for which support is requested, and a budget. Please note that under current tax law, this is treated as a taxable benefit and is subject to tax withholding.

5.8.3 Other

See also information on the [website](#) of the Office of the Dean of the Faculty regarding the Faculty Development Fund, Lectureships, and other opportunities.