

How might a graduate student union impact you?*

TODAY	TOPIC	UNION
<p>The graduate school is often able to creatively fund students in partnership with academic programs, other schools and individual Principal Investigators/Advisors.</p> <hr/> <p>Ph.D. students are guaranteed 19 quarters of funding.</p>	<h2>Amount of Funding/Stipends</h2>	<p>Stipend increases and funding packages negotiated by a union may not compare favorably to those granted by Northwestern.</p> <hr/> <p>Standardization of funding agreements and stipend amounts may limit current flexibility.</p>
<p>Northwestern is committed to providing TGS students with platinum-level health insurance, with lower out-of-pocket costs than would be found in employer or marketplace plans.</p>	<h2>Health Insurance Benefits</h2>	<p>Health insurance options negotiated by a union may not be an improvement over Northwestern's existing commitment to students.</p>
<p>Students are able to work with their faculty advisor to arrange mutually beneficial schedules based on individual circumstances.</p>	<h2>Schedule Flexibility</h2>	<p>Collective bargaining may lead to standardization of schedules and hours.</p>
<p>TGS welcomes student recommendations and feedback on how to improve programs and services to enhance their experience. The Graduate Leadership and Advocacy Council is a key way students interact with TGS.</p>	<h2>Engagement on Key issues</h2>	<p>Issues and priorities subject to collective bargaining may not ultimately align with those considered most important to Northwestern graduate students.</p>
<p>No dues required.</p>	<h2>Paying dues</h2>	<p>A union will require students to pay dues for their representation; 2% of the total stipend is considered standard.</p>

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*Please note that this document is meant to help you consider the potential implications of inviting a third party to represent your interests moving forward. The lack of precedent with regard to collective bargaining on the part of graduate students at private universities, coupled with the uncertainty around which union or unions might be engaged, limit our ability to offer concrete predictions across these categories.