**Student Support Form**

**Biology Graduate Program**

To be completed upon acceptance of a new student to your lab. Please submit the completed form to the Biology Graduate Office (send PDF to [sherwood@sas.upenn.edu](mailto:sherwood@sas.upenn.edu)).

Student Name

Faculty Name

Please indicate how you plan to support this student in their third year and beyond. If funding is not already in place for the third year, indicate which grant proposals are already submitted or will be submitted to support the student. The policy for supporting students is included below for reference.

**Biology Department policy for student support:**

The annual cost to support a Biology student is $49,757 for 2021-2022. After the student’s fifth year in the program, the cost is currently $42,254.

The Biology department expects students will be supported by the thesis lab after the second year.  Individual fellowships (e.g., from NSF) are one means of support but should not be relied on exclusively.  Any faculty member who decides to accept a student should be planning to support that student from a grant (or from discretionary funds). TA slots are limited, and we will primarily use them as a resource to bridge funding gaps that may arise, for example due to delay or failure in renewing a grant.  If a student is supported as a TA for one year, the expectation is still that the student will be supported by the thesis lab in subsequent years.  TA support will be limited to a maximum of one student for any individual lab; a lab that has a student supported as a TA should not take on another student unless the lab can guarantee support for at least one of them. If the number of requests for TA slots exceeds what our budget can accommodate, we will form a committee to decide how to allocate the TA slots.  This committee will have access to relevant information such as current and pending grant support (intramural and extramural), discretionary funds available (including startup), and other personnel in the lab.