

SAO Advisors of Harvard Graduate Students

The Department of Astronomy *fully supports* all students who are accepted for graduate study. The department does not require or expect the statement of financial need upon application to the graduate school. Support may be in the form of a national or university fellowship, a teaching fellowship, or a research assistantship.

A faculty advisor is assigned, by the department of Astronomy, to each incoming graduate student, but each student is free to choose a new advisor at any subsequent time during his or her graduate study, regardless of the affiliation of the advisor, i.e. Harvard or SAO.

If a student chooses to work with an SAO advisor, the SAO advisor must obtain the CfA Director's approval before the advisor commits to the student. The general expectation is that SAO advisors with access to their own funding will be approved. Should funding lapse, i.e. if a grant's period of performance ends and the disposition of a new proposal is pending, the CfA Director would be expected to provide interim funding for the student.

For SAO advisors without their own funding, the Director will have the discretion to provide funding on a case-by-case basis, taking into account budgetary concerns, strategic considerations, such as use of CfA facilities, or other issues.

Like Harvard faculty, SAO advisors are expected to actively seek external funding for graduate students. By the same token, the absence of funding should not be a deterrent if the advisor is approached by a student.

SAO advisors: to access *Request for Approval* form, [click here](#).