Faculty competition for Graduate Research Assistantships (GRA)

The Graduate School is pleased to award up to 17 (seventeen) 12-month GRA positions for the fall, winter and spring/summer terms to faculty; 5 of these GRAs will be awarded to faculty in the Arts and Humanities. These GRA positions will be awarded directly to faculty mentor-student pairings on a competitive basis for support of their research/scholarship and professional development endeavors.

This program is designed to encourage the development of new directions in Ph.D. training in cutting-edge research and scholarship; to facilitate graduate and undergraduate professional development in collaborative, multidisciplinary projects; to enhance the university's ability to obtain extramural training grants; to facilitate strategic plan-driven initiatives in Ph.D. research/training; and to assist faculty recruitment and retention efforts.

At the time of the appointment, the GRA must be a Ph.D. student. In the Arts and Humanities, master's students in disciplines for which the terminal degree is a master's will also be considered. The research conducted by the appointed GRA must be directly related to their own dissertation (or terminal master's degree as noted above) research and must facilitate their professional development. Individual graduate students must be named at the time the application is submitted.

Faculty applicant eligibility

Eligibility to receive a GRA position is limited to regular members of the WSU graduate faculty with active research interests and responsibilities.

Award Details

The award consists of a 12-month GRA position, which includes an annual stipend of approximately $22,241 for students in Arts and Humanities and Social Sciences and $23,472 for Physical/Life Sciences (note that these rates are based on the current contract and will be updated when the new contract takes effect); up to 10 graduate credit hours of tuition assistance for each of the fall and winter terms; up to two graduate credits for the spring/summer term; and subsidized health, vision and dental insurance. All 12-month GRAs are required to enroll for a minimum of six graduate credits per term (fall and winter). If all course and research credits have been completed, the GRA should enroll for Ph.D. maintenance status, which is the equivalent of full-time enrollment. GRA positions may be renewed for one additional year based on faculty reporting of progress made during the initial year and contingent on the student making satisfactory progress in the program.
Award Limitations

To ensure that the GRAs are available to the largest number of faculty-student pairings as possible, the following limitations are placed on the award: Only one application per year per advisor/laboratory is permitted; there may be only one active award per lab/advisor at a time; and the project must be feasible based on available resources (i.e., the project cannot be based on the likelihood of future funding).

Award priorities

Funding for the assistantships will be awarded based on the merits of the proposed research/scholarship or training opportunities, the award's potential for enhancing the professional development of the student through best practices in mentorship, the likelihood of publication output and external funding, alignment with the university/unit strategic goals and objectives, as well as the research/scholarship and training priorities identified by the schools/colleges. Priority will go to students who have advanced to candidacy.

Process and approvals

Requests for GRAs require the approvals of all department chairs and deans of the faculty members and students involved. For requests involving more than one school or college, one dean should be designated as the lead dean.

How to apply

Applications should be submitted collectively by the school or college, accompanied by a cover letter from the dean indicating the school or college's research/scholarship and training priorities. Each dean's office should submit an email to ac0576@wayne.edu with attached cover letter and one PDF document per applicant that includes signature page(s), application, and abbreviated CVs (each CV should not exceed four pages) by 5 p.m. on Jan. 15, 2018.

If you have questions regarding the pre-funding stage, please contact Karen Schramm in the Graduate School at 313-577-8053 or ac0576@wayne.edu. For post-funding questions, please contact Lakshmi Sabapathy in the Graduate School at ab3326@wayne.edu or 313-577-8051.