Call for Applications: 2020-21 Competitive Graduate Research Assistantships

The Graduate School will award up to 20 (twenty) 12-month GRA positions for 2020-21 to faculty-student pairings on a competitive basis, for support of their research/scholarship. This competition is designed to encourage the development of cutting-edge research and scholarship, support excellence in training and mentorship of PhD students, and enhance the ability of faculty and students to obtain external fellowships, scholarships and grants. Application deadline is January 17, 2020.

Eligibility
Faculty mentors must be regular members of the WSU faculty with graduate faculty status and active research interests and responsibilities. The student applicant in the pairing must be a Ph.D. student or a master’s student in disciplines in the Arts & Humanities for which the terminal degree is a master's degree (such as the MFA, MMus). Because of this award’s emphasis on training, students who will have completed the 9991-9994 dissertation sequence before the Fall 2020 term are not eligible.

To ensure that the GRAs are available to the largest number of faculty-student pairings possible, individuals (faculty or students) may participate in only one application each year. If more than one faculty member is involved, a lead mentor should be identified for the purposes of submitting the proposal.

Award details
The award consists of funding for a 12-month GRA position beginning in August 2020 which includes: a stipend; up to 10 graduate credit hours of tuition assistance at the Graduate School rate for the each of the fall and winter terms; up to two graduate credits at the Graduate School rate for the spring/summer term; and subsidized health, vision and dental insurance. The stipend for 12-month GRAs in AY20-21 is $24,823 for Social Sciences and Humanities and $25,723 for Physical/Life Sciences. All 12-month GRAs are required to enroll for a minimum of six graduate credits per term in Fall 2020 and Winter 2021.

Students funded through a Competitive GRA award must submit a proposal to present their research at the 2021 Graduate and Postdoctoral Research Symposium, and are strongly encouraged to participate in the Graduate and Postdoctoral Professional Development workshop series throughout the year of their award. Faculty-student pairings will be required to submit a progress report at the end of the term of the award.

Selection process and criteria
Applicants for the Competitive GRA must obtain signatures of approval from the department chairs and deans for the programs and schools/colleges of the faculty members and students
involved before the proposal is submitted to the Graduate School. If the student and faculty member are from different departments, approval signatures from both departments must be obtained. For requests involving more than one school or college, one dean should be designated as the lead dean. The school/college of the lead dean will review the proposal.

After checking proposals for completeness and eligibility, the Graduate School will distribute proposals to schools/colleges for review. Proposals will be reviewed and ranked by the school/college, and then forwarded to the Graduate School for final selection.

Selection criteria include:
- significance/impact of the proposed scholarly project (20)
- likelihood of success to publish or exhibit the proposed work, receive awards, external funding or other recognition (25)
- mentorship plan (20)
- overall student standing including student prior productivity (e.g. internal and external posters, conference presentations, publications, performances, exhibitions, etc.) commensurate with year in program and area of research (25)
- University, College or School-specific criteria (e.g. alignment with strategic goals and objectives) (10)

Proposal instructions:
Proposals should be submitted by the applicant directly to the graduate school as a single PDF file including the cover page with signatures, proposal, mentorship plan and short CV. Proposals may have font no smaller than Arial 11, must be single-spaced at minimum, and must have 0.5 inch margins at minimum on all sides. Proposals should be sent to gradscholarships@wayne.edu. The deadline for submissions is Friday, January 17, 2020 at 5:00pm. Incomplete applications, applications not conforming to stated page limits or formatting requirements, and applications received after the deadline will not be reviewed.

Schools and college rankings are due back to the graduate school by February 17, 2020. Award announcements will be made shortly thereafter.

Required proposal elements:

1. **Cover page** with signatures (use attached fillable PDF).

2. **Research proposal** of no more than 5 pages, References not included in page limits. Proposals must include the following elements, in this order:
   a. Research question or scholarly or creative work proposal and brief description of significance to the field
   b. Relevant prior scholarship in the field as well as any preliminary work conducted
   c. Discussion of how the question or project will be addressed, answered or carried out, including specific details of data/method
   d. Specific discussion of how the student will be involved in the project
   e. Anticipated challenges or alternative outcomes
f. Future directions and potential for external recognition, external funding, publication or exhibition

3. Mentorship plan written by faculty member of no more than 2 pages. Should include:
   a. Brief summary of mentor’s prior mentorship experience.
   b. Training plan for the student, including any necessary course work specific to the proposed research or scholarly activity.
   c. Planned professional development activities during the time of the award that will enhance the student’s research training and make her/him more competitive for their next academic/career step.
   d. A brief assessment of the student’s fit for the proposed research plan.

4. Student CV – no more than 4 pages

5. Copy of student transcript (unofficial OK)

6. Mentor CV – no more than 5 pages

Questions
If you have questions regarding the application process, 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.