

BIOS PhD Student Graduate Research Assistant Award (2016-2017)

Overview

Graduate Research Assistant (GRA) positions will provide financial support to BIOS PhD students, allowing students to devote significant time to their dissertation research and to the submission of graduate fellowship applications. The purpose of the award is to increase student productivity, decrease the student's time to degree completion, and to increase the likelihood of students receiving graduate fellowships.

GRA positions will be awarded on a competitive basis. Applicants must submit materials by **Friday, April 15, 2016** (see directions below). Recipients will be notified no later than Monday, May 16, 2016.

Eligibility Criteria

- Must be enrolled in the BIOS PhD program
- Must have a cumulative GPA of at least 3.5
- Must be continuing as a full time student in fall 2016 and spring 2017
- 1st year students are not eligible for this competition

Award

- \$11,500 (50% of a \$23,000 GRA appointment)
- 6 credits of tuition, health insurance, and 50% of ETF funds will be provided.
- Matching funds must be provided by student's dissertation advisor to support the other 50% of the GRA appointment
- Term of award: August 25, 2016– August 24, 2017

Conditions of the Awards

- Will not accept employment in addition to GRA position during the award period.
- Dissertation chair/advisor must be willing to provide a written evaluation of your work at the conclusion of the award period.
- Must submit a summary of the work produced at the conclusion of the summer, including graduate fellowships for which you applied.
- Matching funds must be provided by student's dissertation advisor

Directions

Applicants must submit the following materials directly to Monique Sweeney (msween10@GMU.EDU) by **Friday, April 15, 2016**:

1. Narrative

- Limit one page; one-inch margins; single-spaced; Times, 12-pt. font.
- Include a brief description of your dissertation research.

2. CV

- Make sure to highlight publications, patents, presentations, conferences attended, awards/honors and fellowships

3. Graduate fellowship submission plan

- Limit one page; one-inch margins; single-spaced; Times, 12-pt. font.
- Describe a plan for applying and obtaining graduate student fellowships. This should include a list of graduate fellowship programs that will be applied to during the award period. Be sure to select programs for which you are eligible and have deadlines within the award period.

4. Letter of recommendation

- One letter of recommendation is required from the dissertation chair/advisor and should include commitment to providing matching funds during the award period. A fund number must be provided for the matching funds. If grant funding will be used, verification of grant funding by OSP must be provided.
- Dissertation chair/advisor must be willing to work with the student on submission of graduate fellowships.
- Letters must be submitted directly to Monique Sweeney at msween10@GMU.EDU