

# BIOS PhD Student 50% Graduate Research Assistant Award (2018-2019 Academic Year)

## 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 **Wednesday, March 21, 2018** (see directions below). Recipients will be notified no later than Friday, April 23, 2018.

## 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 2018 and spring 2019

## Award

- \$11,500 (50% of a \$23,000 GRA appointment )
- 6 credits of tuition, health insurance, and 50% of ERF 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, 2018– May 24, 2019

## Conditions of the Awards

- Will not accept employment in addition to the GRA position during the award period.
- Dissertation chair/advisor must be willing to provide a written evaluation of the student's work at the conclusion of the award period.
- Must submit a summary of the work produced at the conclusion of the award, 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](mailto:msween10@GMU.EDU)) by **Wednesday, March 21, 2018**:

### 1. Narrative

- Limit one page; one-inch margins; single-spaced; Times New Roman, 12-pt. font.
- Include a brief description of your dissertation research, including your goals for this academic year.

### 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 New Roman, 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.
- Describe your past efforts aimed at obtaining graduate fellowships.

#### 4. Letter of recommendation

- One letter of recommendation is required from the dissertation chair/advisor and must include a commitment to providing matching funds during the award period.
  - Verification of funding will be performed prior to the award being made.
  - Inability to provide matching funds will disqualify the student from being selected.
- 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](mailto:msween10@GMU.EDU)