Summer GRA Support
August 2019

Purpose: To support activities by graduate faculty that are aimed at promoting faculty and graduate student collaborations.

Summary: This program is designed to support faculty research, increase faculty and graduate student collaborations, and fund graduate students over the summer on GRA lines. The program is available to graduate faculty. Summer support GRAs will be awarded on a competitive basis, based on written applications. The applications will be evaluated by SALT. Applications are due on October 15th and lists of activities are intended to cover the previous evaluation period. Decisions about summer GRAs will be announced in January in efforts to give students ample notice of summer funding (or lack thereof). Up to four awards will be given each year, depending on the availability of funds and the quality of applications.

The summer GRA positions will benefit faculty in terms of research support. The positions will benefit students in terms of mentoring, creating publication and presentation opportunities, and providing summer funding support. The positions will benefit faculty and students overall by providing an opportunity for collaboration and active engagement in research.

Applications are intended to fund one graduate student per faculty member; however, applications in which two faculty member collaborators would like to split the time of a GRA are also acceptable. Research groups may also apply for a summer GRA, provided the expectation is that the GRA will work no more than 20 hours a week.

You do not need to be the student's advisor to request them as a summer GRA, but you should be aware of students who are currently on 12-month funding lines or other summer GRA support and unavailable for additional funding. Faculty members should list preferred students for the GRA position. Students will be matched with faculty based on priority of the faculty application and student availability.

Application

The application should include:

1) A narrative (1-3 pages) describing the proposed activities, the expected outcomes, and their relevance to the goals of the program and the proponent's research.

2) Information on the number/names of graduate students (specify doctoral and MA) under your supervision who have graduated and the number/names of graduate students (specify doctoral and MA) students you are currently supervising and their progress in the program.

3) Information on grant funding—grants awarded, grants submitted, students funded through grants. Evidence of successful GRA activities from these funded positions.

4) List of special courses you have supervised for graduate students (i.e. independent studies, teaching practicums, research hours, etc.)

5) List of additional activities with graduate students (i.e. publications, presentations, workshops, recruitment activities, etc.)

Review process

SALT will review the applications and provide a funding priority recommendation to the Chair as described below. SALT members with a conflict of interest (e.g. marital or intimate relationship with an applicant) will recuse themselves from the review panel.

Evaluation Criteria

The main criteria in evaluating the proposals are the potential (positive) impact of proposed activities on department research goals and the likelihood of achieving the stated objectives.

The involvement of the faculty member in the graduate program will also be considered. This includes (but is not limited to):
1) The number of students the faculty member is currently supervising
2) The number of students the faculty members have successfully mentored through the program to graduation
3) Faculty member actively pursuing grant funding
4) Graduate program activities—special courses
5) Other research and recruitment activities with graduate students