



Experimental Program to  
Stimulate Competitive Research

[www.ndepscor.nodak.edu](http://www.ndepscor.nodak.edu)

## REQUEST FOR APPLICATIONS Graduate Student Research Assistantship (GSRA) Program

Issued: November 4, 2014

Review of Applications begin February 5, 2015

Application Deadline: Noon, March 5, 2015

**Limited Funding Available: Early Applications Encouraged**

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### **Purpose:**

This program helps increase opportunities for students from the North Dakota University System baccalaureate universities and ND tribal colleges to pursue graduate degrees at North Dakota's two research universities in the areas of science, engineering and mathematics.

### **Eligibility:**

Application must be made to enter a master's or doctoral graduate program at NDSU or UND in a science, engineering or mathematics field. Priority status will be given to those applicants who have not yet started their graduate courses and who have: graduated with a bachelor's degree on or before June 15, 2015 from Dickinson, Mayville, Minot, or Valley City State Universities; graduated from a tribal college that holds membership in the ND Association of Tribal Colleges; or participated in ND EPSCoR's Nurturing American Tribal Undergraduate Research and Education (NATURE) program at some time during their undergraduate career.

### **Program Description:**

The ND EPSCoR monthly stipend is \$1,620/month for up to a 24-month period. The host department may augment the ND EPSCoR award with a one-quarter (1/4)-time GRA or one-quarter (1/4)-time GTA for one semester per year. However, the annual rate of support must equal the greater of a one-half (1/2)-time GRA or one-half (1/2)-time GTA for the year as set by the Graduate School at NDSU or UND. Use of the assistantship through the summer is also expected. Additionally, a UND awardee is expected to be enrolled in six credit hours.

ND EPSCoR provides the host department up to \$2,000 to help offset the cost of an awardee's research activities, including conference travel and journal publication. Participation in this program does not affect eligibility for the ND EPSCoR Doctoral Dissertation Award program. The thesis or dissertation advisor is required to submit a proposal to the National Science Foundation during the term of the GSRA award.

The application is normally evaluated by the Graduate Dean, the host department, the campus ND EPSCoR leadership.

## Application Requirements:

### *PROSPECTIVE STUDENT Instructions:*

1. Submit *directly to Graduate school(s) of the host institution(s)*:
  - a. Requisite GRADUATE SCHOOL APPLICATION materials.
  - b. Sign and mail a LETTER addressed to the campus graduate dean (*No later than March 5, 2015*) stating:
    - 1) You are applying for a ND EPSCoR GSRA award;
    - 2) List the department in which you want to enroll and the faculty advisor;
    - 3) Include your contact information: mailing address, telephone number, and email address;
    - 4) State what institution you are graduating from, the year and date; and your major
  - c. Please include a paragraph in your application stating how you believe your chosen field of graduate study might be related to ND EPSCoR's 2014-2019 National Science Foundation's Track-1 award involving studies of the impacts of regional climate change, whether physical or social, and/or the growing worldwide recognition of the need to transition away from fossil-based petrochemical and their materials to more sustainable platforms.
2. Send COPIES of the above signed LETTER to:
  - a. The Department Chair of the institution in which you want to enroll, AND
  - b. The corresponding ND EPSCoR office(s) of the university to which you are applying AND, IF APPLICABLE, documentation of *tribal enrolled membership*.

(NDSU)	(UND)
ND EPSCoR	ND EPSCoR
1735 NDSU Res Pk Dr-Suite 142	Twamley Hall Room 101
Dept 4200, PO Box 6050	264 Centennial Drive
Fargo, ND 58108-6050	Grand Forks, ND 58202-7093

### *HOST DEPARTMENT Instructions:*

Submit a letter of nomination to your campus ND EPSCoR office as soon as your department has accepted the student and no later than *April 9, 2015*. The nomination letter, signed by the department chair and/or department graduate director, should address: 1) the student's qualifications; 2) an abbreviated, projected program of study; 3) a timeline for degree completion; and 4) provisions, if any, for student tuition grant assistance or waivers. The ND EPSCoR GSRA award does not include waivers or other tuition assistance.

### *HOST GRADUATE SCHOOL Instructions:*

Submit to your campus ND EPSCoR office *no later than April 16, 2015*, a copy of the letter of notification that the student has been accepted into the graduate program.

## Award Announcements and Additional Information:

Application can be made to enter either a master's or doctoral graduate program. Award announcements for the 2015-2016 academic year will be made on or about April 23, 2015. Funds are expected to be available after August 16, 2015. Awards are contingent upon continued funding from the National Science Foundation and the State of North Dakota.

NDSU: Please direct questions to Jean Ostrom-Blonigen, Project Administrator, at 701.231.7516 or [jean.ostrom-blonigen@ndsu.edu](mailto:jean.ostrom-blonigen@ndsu.edu)

UND: Please direct questions to Mark Hoffmann, Associate Project Director, at 701.777.2511 or [mark.hoffmann@email.und.edu](mailto:mark.hoffmann@email.und.edu)