



Experimental Program to
Stimulate Competitive Research

www.ndepscor.ndus.edu

REQUEST FOR APPLICATIONS
Graduate Student Research Assistantship (GSRA) Program
Issued: November 10, 2015
Application Deadline: Noon, March 3, 2016

Limited Funding Available: Early Applications Encouraged

Purpose:

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

Eligibility:

Applicants who have completed their baccalaureate degree must plan to enter a master's or doctoral graduate program at NDSU or UND in a science, technology, engineering or mathematics field. Priority status will be given to those applicants who have not yet started their graduate courses or who are in the first semester of their graduate program and who have: graduated with a bachelor's degree on or before June 15, 2016 from a ND University System Primarily Undergraduate Institution (PUI: Dickinson, Mayville, Minot, or Valley City State Universities); graduated from a tribal college (TC) 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 high school or undergraduate careers. Additionally, applications may be considered for awards to students in the final semester of their baccalaureate degree program at a PUI or TC, who demonstrate exemplary academic, research and outreach capabilities and who have already been accepted into a master's or doctoral graduate program at NDSU or UND in a science, technology, engineering or mathematics field.

Program Description:

The ND EPSCoR monthly stipend is \$1,620/month for up to a 24-month period. The monthly stipend for those who have completed their baccalaureate degree program is \$1,620/month for up to a 24-month period; however, the applicant's 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.* Applicants who enter the program early, while finishing their baccalaureate degree, may be awarded \$500/month for up to four months (August 16 – December 15, 2016 or January 16 – May 15, 2016) provided a supportive faculty mentor/sponsor can be found.

ND EPSCoR provides the host department up to \$2,000 to help offset the cost of an awardee's graduate 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. Applicants who enter the program early and who are finishing their baccalaureate program during the spring semester, may receive up to an additional \$500 to help offset travel to the ND EPSCoR Annual Conference.

The graduate application is normally evaluated by the Graduate Dean, the host department, the campus ND EPSCoR leadership. All undergraduate applications will be evaluated by the ND EPSCoR Tribal Colleges Liaison Manager and other 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 3, 2016*) 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) ND EPSCoR 1735 NDSU Res Pk Dr-Suite 142 Dept 4200, PO Box 6050 Fargo, ND 58108-6050	(UND) ND EPSCoR Twamley Hall Room 101 264 Centennial Drive Grand Forks, ND 58202-7093
--	---

HOST GRADUATE SCHOOL Instructions:

Submit to your campus ND EPSCoR office *no later than March 22, 2016*, a copy of the letter of notification that the student has been accepted into the graduate program.

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 *March 29, 2016*. 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.*

Award Announcements and Additional Information:

Application can be made to enter either a master's or doctoral graduate program. Award announcements for the 2016-2017 academic year will be made on or about April 5, 2016. Funds are expected to be available after August 16, 2016. 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

UND: Please direct questions to Mark Hoffmann, Associate Project Director, at 701.777.2511 or mark.hoffmann@und.edu