The Graduate School invites colleges and schools to choose graduate students for Outstanding Graduate Assistant Awards for exemplary achievement as a Graduate Assistant (GA) in 2017-18.

Approximately 4,000 UMD graduate students also serve as teaching, research, or administrative assistants. The GS wants to recognize the outstanding contributions that these GAs provide to students, faculty, departments, administrative units, and the University as a whole. While the Awards carry no cash prize, they convey the honor of being named among the top 2% of campus GAs in a given year.

The GS will make approximately 80 Outstanding Graduate Assistant Awards annually and will recognize the awardees for 2018 at our Annual Fellowship and Award Celebration on May 8, 2018.

Eligibility

Graduate students must be currently enrolled masters or doctoral students who are holding at least a half-time graduate assistantship (TA, RA, or AA) for AY 17-18.

Nominators are asked to prepare a nomination letter (one-page maximum) and submit it to the college or school in which the student is enrolled. Nomination letters should include: student’s full name, student’s program, place of assistantship, and the student’s UMD email address (directory ID).

Nominators should check with the college/school to learn when nomination letters are due.

Selection Process

A college or school will choose its Outstanding Graduate Assistant awardees from eligible students enrolled in that college or school, whether the student holds an assistantship in that college or school or elsewhere on campus. In the latter case, a unit in which a student holds his/her assistantship may nominate the student to the college or school in which the student is enrolled.

The college or school of enrollment makes the final selections. Colleges and schools differ considerably in their ratios of RAs, TAs, and AAs, and should choose awardees with those ratios in mind.

The internal processes for choosing awardees will be determined at the college/school level.

The total Graduate Assistant Awards allotted to colleges and schools are as follows:

- CMNS: 20 GAs
- ENGR: 15 GAs
- ARHU and BSOS: 10 GAs each
- AGNR, BMGT, and EDUC: 5 GAs each
- ARCH, INFO, PUAF, and SPHL: 2 GAs each
- JOUR: 1 GA
Outstanding Graduate Assistant Awards, continued

Deadline

Nominators should check with the college/school for internal deadlines.

Colleges and schools must submit their selections for this year’s OGA awards to the Graduate School by Friday, April 20, 2018, so that citations can be created and awardee names listed in the program for the May 2017 Celebration.

Notifying the Graduate School

To prepare for submission, colleges and schools are asked to prepare a brief description of the process used for selecting the OGA Award recipients, and gather the nomination letter(s) for the selected students.

To submit the names of the awarded students, please log on to the GS Awards System at http://apps.gradschool.umd.edu/GSAwardsSystem/, and submit the names to the Graduate School, one at a time. Each student’s directory ID (or UMD email address) will be required.

The GS will notify the student of his/her award and invite the student to the 2018 Annual Fellowship and Award Celebration.

Colleges should not inform awardees prior to GS notification.

Contact Information

Please direct questions to Robyn Kotzker, Assistant Director for the Office of Funding Opportunities (r kotzker@umd.edu, 301.405.0281)