



VCU

Graduate School

Dissertation Assistantship Award Program (For Fall 2017 and Spring 2018 semesters)

Nomination Deadline: May 1, 2017

The Graduate School is pleased to announce the 2017-2018 Dissertation Assistantship award program. This funding program is for doctoral (Ph.D.) scholars who have completed all program requirements, including didactic courses, except for the dissertation and who will be defending the dissertation and graduating by the end of the fall 2017 or spring 2018 semesters. Qualifying students must be nominated to your school/college Dean's Office by their program directors. Due to the funding source, this program is only available to doctoral students.

Nominees

- must have received Graduate School approval of degree candidacy,
- must have successfully defended the dissertation proposal,
- must be planning to work full-time towards completion of the dissertation only during the award period,
- and must certify that they will not be employed in any other position, internal or external, for the award period.

This award is not intended to replace any existing funding or funding commitment. Programs may, however, pay university/program fees and/or supplement the stipend in order to align with funding levels of other students. There may be no work required other than work on the dissertation.

Nominations will be evaluated on the basis of:

- Scholarship
- Methodology
- Clarity of style and presentation
- Strength of recommendations
- Academic record

Dissertation Assistantships will be awarded as follows:

Semester	Stipend	Enrollment Requirement
Fall 2017 semester only (1 semester)	\$9,000	9 semester hours of graduate dissertation/ research course work for <u>fall</u> semester
Spring 2018 semester only (1 semester)	\$9,000	9 semester hours of graduate dissertation/ research course work for <u>spring</u> semester
Fall 2017/Spring 2018 semesters (2 semesters)	\$18,000	9 semester hours of graduate dissertation/ research course work for <u>fall/spring</u> semesters

The Graduate School will disburse assistantship funds on the first and sixteenth of each month for the period of appointment. University tuition support (**no fees**) will be credited to the student account upon verification of enrollment in, with intention to complete for credit, the minimum 9 credit hours indicated above.

Please submit a single PDF file:

- Transmittal letter from the school/college dean's office
- One or two page outline of the student's research plan
- Letter of recommendation from the student's major advisor
- Letter of recommendation from the graduate program director or department chair
- Letter of certification from the student that they will not be employed in any other position, internal or external, for the award period

to graddean@vcu.edu. Nominations must be received by the Graduate School by **5:00 p.m.** on **Monday, May 1, 2017**. Applications will be reviewed by a faculty panel and notifications will be made via email beginning May 22, 2017. If you have any questions, please call Melissa Tyler at 828-2261.