

**Florida International University
University Graduate School**

Guidelines for Presidential Enhanced Assistantships

Presidential Enhanced Assistantships are intended to recruit exceptional graduate students to enroll full time in a doctoral degree program at Florida International University. UGS will consider two rounds of nominations. The same application form is used for both the Presidential Fellowship and the Presidential Enhanced Assistantships.

The Presidential Enhanced Assistantships provided to the unit range from \$5,000 to \$15,000. The level of enhancement awarded at the time of entry in the program will be continued for four years provided students make excellent progress in their degree programs. Students holding these assistantships will be assigned tasks equivalent to a 0.5 FTE appointment. Tuition for Presidential Enhanced Assistantship recipients is paid from the normal allocations to the school or college.

Requirements:

Entering graduate students receiving a Presidential Award must have either:

- 1) GRE scores (Verbal plus Quantitative) of at least 1300 or GMAT Composite scores of at least 640; or
- 2) GRE scores at least 300 points or GMAT composite scores at least 140 points above a three-year running average of scores of entering doctoral students awarded Graduate Assistantships.

Because this program is designed to attract extremely well qualified students to FIU, students already enrolled are ineligible. If an outstanding FIU student has a bona fide offer from another graduate school, the Presidential Enhanced Assistantship can be used in developing a counter offer. In this situation, the nomination may be evaluated outside of the established deadline schedule.

Expectations:

Mean time to receipt of degree will decrease by at least one semester for Presidential Award recipients compared to the departmental three year average for students supported on a normal assistantship.

Presidential Enhanced Awardees will have submitted at least one first-authored manuscript to a national peer-reviewed journal prior to graduation.

Nomination Procedure:

Nominations are made by the unit (department or school). A unit may submit no more than six nominations (total of 1st and 2nd round). The units *must* rank nominations and state whether the first choice is a Presidential Fellowship or an Enhanced Assistantship. A nomination form is attached.

For Enhanced Assistantships, the unit *must* identify the assistantship funding provided by the unit as well as the enhancement requested. Unit commitments of research and travel funds for the recipient, as well as the requested enhancement amount, will be considered by the evaluation committee.

Conditions:

Presidential Award recipients will be subject to an annual review of academic and scholarly progress. The unit must forward the annual review to the University Graduate School for review prior to renewal of the award. The recipient must enroll full time (9 credits in fall, 9 credits in spring, and 6 credits in summer) in the graduate program.

Submission Procedure:

1st Round Nominations are due at UGS February 12, 2009

This first round of awards will serve:

1. highly-qualified prospective students who completed their admission application very early in the admission cycle; and
2. applicants in disciplines where it is the norm for financial aid packages to be awarded in Jan-Feb.

This early deadline has been chosen to be competitive with equivalent fellowships offered by our benchmark universities and other universities in Florida.

2nd Round Nominations are due at UGS April 2, 2009

This second round of awards will serve:

1. highly-qualified prospective students with admission applications that were completed after the first round of nominations were considered;
2. applicants who are in disciplines where it is the norm for financial aid packages to be awarded in the spring; and
3. nominees who were not awarded fellowships in the first round but whose application has been subsequently strengthened in some way.

This second round of nominations will also allow UGS to re-allocate scholarships that have been declined by 1st round awardees thereby maximizing the utilization of these resources.

- Complete nomination form and required supporting documentation.
- Submit one original and six complete double-sided copies of each nomination.
- Units should expect to be informed of the decisions of the evaluation committee within 20 days after the submission deadline.

Please *rank* all nominees submitted.