PhD Enhancement Funds for GTA Lines

The Graduate School is pleased to announce another round of PhD Enhancement Funds for academic year 2018-2019 supported from enrollment growth tuition revenues. Each line will have an $18,000 AY stipend with a requirement of 19 hours of instruction per week. For the purpose of this announcement, a “department” involves any Ph.D. generating department or program. A department may request up to two lines.

The intended purpose of these additional GTA lines is to assist The Graduate School and departments address enrollment growth and increased PhD productivity, while enhancing the academic preparation of PhD students. It is anticipated that the focus of the funding will be to a limited number of departments, with those departments potentially receiving GTA lines for more than one year.

A PhD Enhancement Fund GTA award is intended for current and continuing Ph.D. students with a proven track-record of teaching ability/excellence and is not renewable for any PhD student who previously received the award. Thus, any current or past awardee cannot be awarded again. For example, the same department can receive funds for the same instructional support, but the funds must go to a different student. If funds are spent to support the same student for more than one year, a department will risk losing eligibility to apply for these funds in subsequent academic years.

A formal proposal is required from each department interested in procuring one or more of these GTA lines and should include the names of each prospective award recipient. Each request must include clearly stated rationale that addresses the following items (see Attachment A):

1. Describe how the lines will lead to increased PhD production for a specific doctoral program.

2. Describe how the GTA will assist the department to accomplish its teaching mission, in ways that also will provide PhD students with a quality teaching experience. For example, a GTA whose responsibilities involve delivery of course content as an instructor are preferable to a GTA whose primary responsibility is to grade assignments.

3. What the impact would be on existing faculty workloads with respect to teaching and/or research.

4. How the future academic appointments of the GTA award recipient will be covered in subsequent terms/years.

5. A department requesting a renewal of support is required to submit a report to The Graduate School that provides evidence of both the availability of funding for existing lines and on documented progress relative to the stated goals of the past proposal. For example, evidence may be reflected in an increase in the number of PhD students in the department over time, peer-reviewed publications, and the number of proposals submitted/awarded.

The proposal must be submitted electronically to Melis Edwards (melisenda.edwards@montana.edu) in The Graduate School by January 19, 2018. A copy of the proposal must be sent to your academic dean. The University Graduate Council will review the proposals and make recommendations to the Dean of The Graduate School. In order to assist department recruiting efforts, allocation of the GTA lines will be completed by February 5, 2018.
## Attachment A: Criteria and Assessment Ratings for PhD Enhancement Award

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Criteria / Rating</th>
<th>Low</th>
<th>Medium</th>
<th>High</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Department Funding of Future Appointments</td>
<td>The student will be self-funded through PhD completion after the receipt of PhD Enhancement funding.</td>
<td>The student will be partially funded through PhD completion after the receipt of PhD Enhancement funding.</td>
<td>The student will be fully funded by department funds through PhD completion after the receipt of PhD Enhancement funding.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Criteria for GTA Teaching Responsibilities and Impact on Faculty Workload</td>
<td>The GTA recommended for PhD Enhancement Funds will engage in 10 hours of instruction per week and provide faculty support (e.g., grade papers, data analysis, gather research materials, etc) for 9 hours per week. The proposal does not make clear how GTAs provide opportunities for faculty to engage research integral to the department’s expertise and external funding.</td>
<td>The GTA recommended for PhD Enhancement Funds will engage in 15 hours of instruction per week (lecture, laboratory supervision, tutoring etc.) and provide faculty support (e.g., grade papers, data analysis, gather research materials etc) for 4 hours per week. GTA responsibilities will provide opportunities for faculty to engage in research integral to the department’s expertise and external funding.</td>
<td>The GTA recommended for PhD Enhancement Funds will engage in 19 hours of instruction per week. GTA responsibilities will provide time on a weekly basis (hours per week) for faculty to engage in research integral to the department's expertise and external funding.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Description of Increased PhD productivity</td>
<td>The proposal is unclear about how funding for this student will contribute to increase PhD productivity in the department.</td>
<td>The proposal provides some evidence for increased PhD productivity. However, the evidence is descriptive and does not explicitly explain how funding contributes to departmental PhD graduation rates.</td>
<td>The proposal clearly articulates how funding for this student will contribute to increase PhD productivity in the department (e.g., the number of PhD students projected to graduate is provided as evidence).</td>
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