

Funding

Financial support is available for graduate students in the Department of Life Sciences Communication. Many of our graduate students are funded through assistantships-- either in our department, working under the direction of one of our faculty members-- or in one of numerous other departments and programs that regularly look to LSC for students with strong communication skills.

Assistantships

Most graduate students who receive support serve as teaching, research, or project assistants (TAs, RAs and PAs). **Assistantships** are typically part-time positions that pay a monthly salary. Assistantships that are 33.33% or more and are for a term of four and one-half months or more (based on a 40-hour work week) pay all tuition for the student (\$8,000) and may also make the student eligible for comprehensive **health insurance coverage** (a benefit worth approximately \$4,200 annually). Madison has one of the top health care systems in the country. Additional information about assistantships may be found on the web at <http://www.wisc.edu/grad/education/acadpolicy/guidelines.html#121>. Additional information about health insurance coverage may be found at http://etf.wi.gov/publications/dc_content/dc_2009/Grad_ET2127/ET2127_complete.pdf.

LSC graduate students are notified of all vacant assistantships via the **grad program's student listserv** (lsc_gradprog@lists.wisc.edu). If you don't think you are on the listserv, contact **Brenda Klusmeyer**, student services coordinator at nangst@wisc.edu or 262-1464. Be sure to also provide **Brenda** with a copy of your resume or curriculum vitae (CV), samples of your work, and other information that would be helpful in identifying potential positions.

Assistantships that are part of research centers or federal grants may not always be posted on the listserv. Students that are employed on externally-funded research projects typically have a particular interest in the specific area of research and demonstrate expertise and knowledge that will benefit the project.

For vacancies outside of the department, students should refer to the **Student Job Center** (<http://jobcenter.wisc.edu/>) website, the **Grad Student Collaborative's electronic newsletter, GradConnections** (<http://www.grad.wisc.edu/education/gsc/gradconnections.html>) the **College of Agricultural & Life Sciences (CALS) Office of Graduate Studies and Professional Development** website (<http://www.cals.wisc.edu/gradstudies/>), as well as any department or college website on campus.

Fellowships

A fellowship is an award that enables a graduate student to pursue a degree full-time. The department nominates its most competitive grad applicants for fellowship awards. **University Fellowships** are selected by the Graduate School in a campus-wide fellowship competition. (See <http://info.gradsch.wisc.edu/education/funding/univfellowships.html>) for more info regarding University Fellowships.)

The Social Science division offers a **Two-Year Recruitment Fellowship** (<http://info.gradsch.wisc.edu/education/funding/univfellowships.html>), which provides a stipend (\$18,567 in 2009-10 Academic Year), tuition, fees, and eligibility for health insurance. The fellowship is awarded during the student's first year in the program and during the student's first year as a dissertator.

The department also nominates students for **Wisconsin Distinguished Graduate Fellowships (WDGF)** (<http://www.cals.wisc.edu/research/funding/cals.php?0?Cp6>), which are awarded by the College of Agricultural and Life Sciences.

Advance Opportunity Fellowships (AOF)

(<http://www.grad.wisc.edu/education/funding/aof.html>) provide full tuition and funding support to targeted minorities and economically disadvantaged students. The department applies for AOF fellowships on behalf of LSC students through the Graduate Research Scholars Program (Sci/Med GRS) run jointly between CALS and the School of Medicine and Public Health.

Financial Aid

Students who are U.S. citizens or Permanent Residents can apply for Federal Stafford Loans (subsidized and unsubsidized) and for Federal Work-Study through the **Office of Student Financial Aid (OSFA)** (<http://www.finaid.wisc.edu/>). Eligibility is based on financial need. OSFA also offers information on the **cost of attendance** (<http://www.finaid.wisc.edu/index.php?module=articles&func=display&ptid=9&catid=92&aid=583>).

Emergency (Short-Term) Loans

OSFA also offers emergency short-term loans to qualified students.

Short-term loans are also available through the College of Agricultural & Life Sciences (CALS). They are given only to assist in unanticipated emergency situations, and must be repaid within the semester in which they are borrowed. Contact the CALS Dean-on-Call for assistance at 262-3003.

Hourly Employment

Other employment opportunities are available both on campus and in the community. Openings for full and part-time jobs for students and spouses are listed on the **Student Job Center** (<http://jobcenter.wisc.edu/activejobs.asp?uw=1>) web site.