

Award Selection Criteria for Enhanced Graduate Teaching Assistantships AY 2012-2013

For the third year, a select number of beginning doctoral students will be offered a financial support package consisting of an enhanced GTA stipend and a full tuition fellowship.

These enhanced stipend and full tuition coverage support packages will be available to new doctoral students. To be eligible, candidates must meet or exceed set minimum criteria or be granted an exception by the Office of Graduate Studies (OGS). The following describes those criteria and the process governing the awards to prospective students.

1. Minimum Requirements

Candidates must meet the two sets of criteria listed below:

Office of Graduate Studies Minimum Requirements

Eligible candidates will

- be starting their first semester in a UT Arlington graduate program in Fall 2011.
- hold one of the GTA stipends funded at the enhanced rate starting in their first semester of enrollment.
- have a GTA appointment of 50% time.
- have a GPA of at least 3.0 in their last 60 undergraduate credit hours plus at least a 3.25 GPA in any graduate level credit hours.
- be unconditionally admitted to their degree program.
- satisfy English proficiency requirements necessary to hold a graduate teaching assistantship.
- be enrolled in a minimum of 9 hours in courses related to their programs of work in both long semesters to qualify for and retain their fellowships.

Linguistics Department Criteria for Unconditional Admission

GRE scores and GPA: The applicant must presents a graduate GPA of at least 3.3, a GRE Verbal score of at least 500, a GRE Quantitative score of at least 600, and a GRE Analytical score of at least 4.5. (**English Proficiency Scores:** Applicants for whom English is not their native language must also present a Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) score of at least 100 iBt, or 250 if computer based, or 600 if paper based, and, due the teaching component required in the assistantship, must also submit a score from the speaking section of the TOEFL or the speaking section of the IELTS.)

OR

GRE scores and GPA: The applicant must presents an undergraduate GPA of at least

3.6, a GRE Verbal score of at least 450, a GRE Quantitative score of at least 550, and a GRE Analytical score of at least 4.0. (**English Proficiency Scores:** applicants for whom English is not their native language must also present a Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) score of at least 100 iBT, or 250 if computer based, or 600 if paper based, and, due the teaching component required in the assistantship, must also submit a score from the speaking section of the TOEFL or the speaking section of the IELTS.)

Writing Sample: Applicants must submit an academic writing sample (research paper) of 20 pages or less. The paper must be in an area of language or linguistic study, and demonstrate a strong prose style, a solid handle on argumentation, and the ability to do academic research in linguistics or a closely related field.

Letters of Recommendation: Each applicant must present three (3) personalized letters of recommendation *written by academics in their previous degree program or research projects*. These must unequivocally indicate that the applicant is prepared for and capable of successful graduate study in linguistics at UT Arlington. The letters should further indicate that the applicant is capable of completing the degree program.

Statement of Intent for Academic Study in Our Department: Each applicant must write a statement that explains their intended plan of study and specialization in our department. The statement will be evaluated on the degree to which it is clear, reasonable, and consistent with the research and teaching agenda of the current faculty in Linguistics & TESOL at UT Arlington. Prospective applicants should consider the departmental website and faculty research and teaching areas as they evaluate whether they would be able to accomplish their plan of study in our department, especially if they are applying to the doctoral program. The statement should also convey a level of commitment and maturity commensurate with the applicant's desired degree goals.

Two Types of Eligible Students:

--Previous Graduate Work: Ph.D. applicants without a BA in linguistics must present at least 30 semester credit hours of previous graduate-level coursework in any field (not necessarily linguistics). Those who present fewer than 30 semester credit hours will automatically be considered as applicants to the M.A. Linguistics program and will not be eligible for the enhanced assistantship that year. They will be afforded the opportunity to request entry into the doctoral program once the minimum number of hours have been attained.

--BA-to-PhD Program: A student admitted into the accelerated PhD program must have a minimum undergraduate GPA of 3.6 (on a 4.0 scale) based on upper division course work (junior and senior level or equivalent) in a four year BA in linguistics program or a BA in an allied field.

2. Exception Requests

Exceptions may be requested for students who do not meet the minimum requirements. However, in no case should an award be promised to a student who does not meet all

minimum requirements until the exception is reviewed and approved by the OGS. Such exceptions include instances where the student is admitted provisionally for final transcripts showing award of the appropriate degree (“will grad”), where a one-semester extension for meeting English proficiency requirements required for holding a GTA is appropriate, and, in some cases, when superior students have been admitted on probation. Requests for an exception must include written justification that details why the student is considered an outstanding candidate for the award despite conditions placed on his or her admission. Exceptions will not be considered for students with any provisional status other than “will grad” or for students with less than full-time enrollment.

3. Process

Students who meet all minimum requirements set by the OGS and any additional requirements set by the admitting department may be offered the enhanced support package whenever the department wishes to do so. Enhanced graduate teaching assistantships must accompany tuition fellowships.

Neither the enhanced assistantship nor the tuition fellowship may be offered to students who do not meet these requirements unless an exception request and justification has been reviewed and approved by the OGS.