

DATE

«First_Name» «Last_Name»
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«GreetingLine»

Please accept my congratulations for being selected to receive The University of Georgia's Presidential Fellows Graduate Research Assistantship. This is the University's most prestigious award, made only to the most qualified doctoral trainees. It is in recognition of your outstanding scholarship and excellent potential for future success in your chosen discipline.

The benefits of this assistantship include an annual payment of \$27,000 and a reduction of the tuition fee to \$25 per semester, instead of the standard tuition, which for the 2018-2019 school year is \$4,352 for in-state students and \$12,346 for out-of-state students. Therefore, the full value of this award includes the annual payment and the savings in tuition that you will receive should you accept this assistantship. **Payments for new students will be prorated for the first year since students do not begin their assistantship assignment until August 1, 2019 rather than July 1, 2019.**

In addition, our Presidential Fellows are afforded unique opportunities for professional development and networking. Students supported on a Presidential Fellows Graduate Research Assistantship will be invited to participate in a monthly discussion group with other Fellows and selected faculty members to discuss issues that add value to the University and further your professional development. Presidential Fellows are also strongly encouraged to seek out leadership opportunities such as providing mentorship to undergraduates through our Center for Undergraduate Research Opportunities (CURO) program.

For the first year of your award (2019-2020), which begins in August 1st and continues through June 30th, you will receive payment of \$24,750. The University is committed to renewing this award for four additional years contingent upon satisfactory academic progress, satisfactory work performance, the recommendation of your department, and continued funding from the State of Georgia. For subsequent years, you will be paid \$27,000 for the full 12 months.

All University of Georgia students are required to pay mandated student fees. For spring 2019, these are \$1,139 and included services of the University Health Center and Ramsey Student Center for Physical Activities as well as transportation, athletic, technology, and activity fees. International students also will be required to pay an International Student Compliance Fee. The updated fee amount can be found at http://issis.uga.edu/docs/Info_Section/ISCF_amounts.pdf. For further information on tuition and fees, please see <http://www.bursar.uga.edu>.

To determine what impact, if any, this assistantship will have on your financial aid award for the academic year, please contact the Office of Student Financial Aid (OSFA) at 706-542-6147 or osfa@uga.edu.

All students on assistantships are required to have health insurance unless you qualify to opt out of the University System's health insurance plan. Further information on premiums for the Mandatory Plan is available at <https://hr.uga.edu/students/student-health-insurance/mandatory-plan/mandatory-plan-premiums/>. Additional information on student health insurance can be found at <http://www.hr.uga.edu/students>.

Your assistantship award is intended to contribute to your scholarly development. As a Presidential Fellows recipient, you must register for a minimum of twelve (12) graduate credit hours per semester during the regular academic year and nine (9) graduate credit hours for summer semester. You will be expected to engage in research under the guidance of your faculty mentor and take advanced-level courses. If you have any question about your academic obligations, please contact your graduate coordinator.

All assistantship recipients supported by the Graduate School are required to take a responsible conduct in research (RCR) course within their first year of attendance. To meet this obligation the Graduate School offers a course GRSC 8550 (Responsible Conduct of Research) in both the spring and fall semesters. Alternatively, your department may offer another suitable RCR course. Each new Presidential Fellows recipient is also required to prepare and submit an Individual Development Plan (IDP) and a Mentor-Mentee Compact (MMC) by the end of your second year. Several IDP and MMC templates are available on the Graduate School website: <http://grad.uga.edu>. Once completed, you can upload your IDP and MMC at <http://gradstatus.uga.edu>. Your assistantship may not be renewed for the following year if these obligations are not met.

It is expected that you will spend 13 hours per week working within your academic department on research and related activities that further your education and professional development. For the first two years of the award, you will not be assigned any classroom teaching. After the second year, you may participate in teaching and will perform other activities assigned by your department. It is expected that you will perform these duties to the satisfaction of your department and faculty mentor.

We hope that you will join the reception held by the Graduate School honoring all Graduate School award recipients. You will receive an invitation to the event later in the summer with further details.

Please fill out the enclosed reply form and return it no later than **April 15, 2019** to:

(Address and Email)

I sincerely hope you will accept this award offer. I wish you great success in your graduate work at The University of Georgia and beyond, in all of your future endeavors.

Sincerely,

Departmental Contact

cc: Cicely Robinson-Jones, Graduate School Business Office