Graduate Student Financial Aid Opportunities – Public Affairs

The Public Affairs program offers two types of financial support to highly qualified graduate students. These are research and teaching assistantships. Both provide valuable opportunities for faculty-student professional collaborations that enhance academic learning, career choices, and professional development.

**Research and teaching assistantships** provide assistance to a faculty member or members in the conduct of their research or their courses and help students to develop their own teaching skills.

Assistantships are competitive – **eligibility** includes a minimum GPA of not less than 3.0 and preferably 3.5 at time of entry and during continuation of the Program, as well as a combined GRE score of preferably not less than 1200, as well as related evidence of academic and communications skills at the time of application.

Assistantships **typically** are awarded starting in the Fall semester with the award covering the Fall, Spring, and Summer semesters. Assistantships require registration for at least 9, and possibly 12, credit hours of coursework per semester, as prescribed by the UTD graduate catalog and the Public Affairs Ph.D. degree plan, and as advised and permitted by the Public Affairs Program Head.

Assistantships are awarded and **renewable**, contingent on satisfactory academic and assistantship performance and availability of funds, for a maximum of 99 semester credit hours of graduate coursework. This means enrollment, as well as strong and timely progress, in the Public Affairs Ph.D. Program and in its courses, as prescribed by the UTD graduate catalog and the Program degree plan, and as determined by the Program Head or, if a research assistantship, then the faculty Principal Investigator who holds the research grant. All assistants also are expected to know relevant university policy and procedures and important dates and holidays as listed in the University Schedule of Classes.

Assistant may receive one of three tiers of **monthly stipend** – approximately $1200 per month up to 30 semester credit hours of graduate coursework – approximately $1300 per month between 30 and 60 hours (which may include an earned MA or MS degree) – and, approximately $1400 per month between when a student passes the doctoral examinations (usually at 60 hours) and teaches his/her own course up to a maximum of 99 semester hours. Regardless of tier, fully funded students also receive in-state **tuition** for approximately 9 credit hours of coursework per semester up to 10 consecutive semesters. Assistantships, together with required coursework, constitute a full-time position – this means that assistants may not hold employment outside of the university.

To be considered for financial support, simply indicate your interest in an assistantship when completing your application for admission. To maximize your chances of an award, all application materials should be received at The University of Texas at Dallas no later than the applicable deadline for the appropriate semester. Please note that awards are generally limited to students seeking the Ph.D. degree.
Any additional questions may be addressed to:
Dr. Jeremy Hall, Public Affairs Assistant Program Head and PhD Advisor
jeremy.hall@utdallas.edu  I  972-883-5347
or
Avis Willis, Public Affairs Program Assistant
avis.willis@utdallas.edu  I  972-883-4936

Inquiries about other forms of financial aid should be directed to the University's financial aid office.