

High Impact Doctoral Research Assistantships

September 4, 2013

The High Impact Doctoral Research Assistantship (HIDRA) award program is designed to attract high-quality graduate students who received their undergraduate educations at institutions other than BYU. Graduate Studies plans to offer five awards per year. Each award will provide \$30,000 per year for three years, subject to maintaining satisfactory performance.

The intent of this program is to recruit students who are capable of producing scholarly research that will have an impact on their disciplines. Unlike traditional fellowships, HIDRA awards are assistantships, which means that each awardee must study under the direction of a faculty advisor who will administer the award. Consequently, when granting a HIDRA award, Graduate Studies must consider the criteria for choosing the faculty advisor as well as the criteria for choosing the student. Thus, to receive an award, the faculty advisor and the student must meet the following criteria:

1 Faculty Criteria

- A well-defined research program
- A curriculum vitae
- A clear presentation of the proposed research project
- A concise statement of academic merit that explains the importance of the proposed research for advancing knowledge and understanding and describes the extent to which the proposal suggests and explores creative and original concepts
- Letters of recommendation from the dean and department chair that evaluate the qualifications of the faculty member, the significance of the proposed work, and the level of department/college support

2 Student Criteria

- A curriculum vitae that demonstrates superior GPA and GRE scores and other evidence of outstanding potential
- A statement of research aspirations that describes how the student's interests and preparation will contribute to the proposed project
- Three letters of recommendation from qualified academic sources

3 Application Guidelines

Both the faculty portion and the student portion of the proposal should be submitted to Graduate Studies on or before 15 January, 2014, at which time complete proposals will be processed. Complete proposals received after that date will be considered if fewer than five awards have been allocated.

- Each faculty member desiring a HIDRA award will submit a complete proposal to his or her dean, who will then submit the college's top two nominations to Graduate Studies.

- The Dean of Graduate Studies will impanel a faculty committee to review and rank the proposals. The top five applications will be considered the winners (with the constraint that no college may have more than two winning proposals), with the next five considered the alternates.
- Each winning faculty member will be authorized to offer the HIDRA award to the designated student. If the student declines, then the award will be offered to the next alternate in descending order.
- To be eligible for the funding, students must a) enroll for a minimum of 6 credit hours for the academic year (fall, winter, spring/summer), and b) enroll for a minimum of 2 credit hours for fall and winter semesters throughout the duration of the award.