Summer RA Information—Updated: 4/14/2017

The Graduate School is pleased to announce, in collaboration with the Office of the Provost, that we are soliciting applications from graduate students (master’s or doctoral) who are interested in engaging in research, scholarly or creative projects during Summer 2017, under the direction of faculty mentors in any department or program across campus. This competition is open to all students, including international students. However, please note that this RAship is intended for graduate students who do not have other sources of paid employment at UTEP during the summer.

**Eligibility:** To apply, students must:
- Be master’s or doctoral students in good standing, enrolled full-time at the time of application.
- Have a GPA of 3.0 or higher.
- Have already identified a faculty mentor.
- Adhere to University and Graduate School policies regarding summer enrollment and employment. This is an hourly research appointment. Enrollment in 3 class hours during the summer is required.

**Application:** All of the following documents must be combined into one PDF, submitted by the student via the application link, AND approved by the faculty mentor by **5:00 pm on April 21, 2017**:
- A 500 word personal statement prepared by the student to include a discussion of the motivation to pursue research, academic preparation or experience in this area, and future academic and career plans, noting how this work relates to their graduate program, and advances them towards degree completion.
- A two page (max) project description including the significance of the project, the research question, project objectives, and methods or processes in which the student will be engaged.
- A 250-word mentoring plan describing what the faculty mentor will do to advance the research skills of the Research Assistant over the ten weeks of the project.
- Student’s CV.
- An unofficial copy of the student’s most recent transcript.

**Award Details:** Master’s and doctoral students selected to receive this award will receive a salary of $15.00 per hour for a maximum of 20 hours per week for **ten weeks**, to be completed between **June 1 and August 31**. Students will attend at least two Graduate Student Professional Development activities sponsored by the Graduate School during this time. In addition, all Summer Research Assistants are encouraged to submit a proposal to the 2017 Graduate Student Research Expo, based on the summer research project.

**Role of Faculty Mentors:** This award supports research activities, and the faculty mentor is expected to provide mentorship and supervision, with adequate space, materials, supplies and equipment necessary to conduct the project. The faculty mentor will submit a brief online evaluation of the student at the end of the summer. Mentorship workshops will also be available for interested faculty.

**Proposal Evaluation:** A panel of UTEP faculty will evaluate applications based on the quality of the proposed research, the potential benefit of mentoring, the potential to advance faculty research efforts, the student’s personal statement, and the student’s financial need during the summer. Decisions will be announced by **May 10th**.

Faculty mentors may direct questions to Dr. Bess Sirmon-Taylor, Associate Dean of The Graduate School.