UNLV | GRADUATE COLLEGE

RFP:
Graduate Faculty Top Tier Doctoral Graduate Research Assistantship (TTDGRA) Grant Program

TTDGRA Program Information

The Top Tier Doctoral Graduate Research Assistantship program will support approximately 30 doctoral graduate research assistantships. This competitive program will fund selected proposals for research and creative activity supported by one 9-month state-funded doctoral research assistant for an academic year, and renewable for up to two additional years (for 3 years of total support: Fall 2023 through Spring 2026). These TTDGRAs will receive the standard doctoral student GA stipend (which varies by graduate program) and standard Graduate College GA benefits (tuition, health insurance, & summer tuition benefits). Faculty who are awarded TTDGRAs are encouraged to supplement the stipend and/or hire the student in summer using department, college, or other external funds, if available. The approximate value of this program is $800,000 per year for 3 years, or approximately $2.4 million dollars.

TTDGRA Application Information

- TTDGRAs are awarded to faculty who then select and appoint a doctoral student to fill the GA position each year in the Grad Rebel Gateway.
- Proposals should clearly address how the TTDGRA faculty and graduate student research, scholarship, or creative activities will support UNLV Top Tier 2.0 efforts and/or advance our effort to cultivate and sustain a strong, R1 (Carnegie very high research) graduate community.
- Proposals must show how the TTDGRA will promote graduate student success and appropriate time-to-degree.
- Collaborative and interdisciplinary teams are encouraged to apply and teams *may* be eligible for multiple TTDGRAs.
- Individual applicants may apply but will only be considered for a *maximum* of one TTDGRA.
- This program supports tenure track and tenured graduate faculty of all ranks and from all fields of study.
- The TTDGRA application is this online Qualtrics TTDGRA Application form. You may begin the form, save it, exit and return to complete the form. The form is not considered complete until you fill it out completely, per the instructions provided, and hit the submit button.
- TTDGRA applications are due by August 8th, 2022. Award notifications will be sent in December to allow for time to recruit and appoint TTDGRA students to begin in Fall 2023.
- Recipients of TTDGRA awards must complete an annual TTDGRA report each spring as part of the request for renewal of the TTDGRA award for years 2 and 3.
- Recipients must submit a grant proposal that includes support for a GA during the 3-year award period.

Submission Guidelines & Information

Please submit the TTDGRA proposal as described below. The submission deadline is 9 p.m. on August 8, 2022. After submission, the proposals will be distributed to the proposers' deans and department chairs for review, rating, and comment. Next, a select committee of faculty, with representation from each college with graduate programs, will review and rank all of the submitted proposals and make recommendations to the Graduate College. We anticipate funding 30 TTDGRAs. The Graduate College will determine the final number and distribution of awards and manage the TTDGRAs for the duration of the program after the TTDGRA committee completes its work. The Graduate College will announce awards in January, 2023. Funded proposals will be able to recruit their TTDGRA for fall 2023 admission or hire a current graduate student for this role. Funded researchers and teams will be required to submit an annual report each spring.

Proposal Requirements & Format

In the Qualtrics [TTDGRA Application](#) you will be asked to provide some basic information and submit a pdf of your grant proposal. Your proposal must conform to the following guidelines:

- Please describe your proposed research, scholarship or creative activities. What are you proposing to do during the 3-year funding cycle and how will having a 3-year TTDGRA support and advance your project?
- Include a brief section explaining your background and related research/scholarship/creative activities and how this prepares you/the research team to be successful.
- How will your proposed project contribute to existing knowledge in your field and department/university mission ([UNLV Top Tier 2.0](#))?
- Outline your program timeline for the 3-year funding cycle between August 2023 and May 2026.
- Describe your anticipated outcomes of this project and deliverables (conference presentations, publications, grants, performances, exhibitions, book chapters, manuscript, etc.).
- Recipients must submit a grant proposal that includes support for a GA during the 3-year award period. Please describe the potential funding source and explain the timeline for grant submission.
- Do not exceed 5 single-spaced pages, including diagrams, tables, appendices and references
- 1-inch side margins
- ½ inch top and bottom margins
- Text font should be at least 11 point
- A header with the project director/directors' first & last name(s), departments, and project title (so no cover page required)
- A footer with the page number
- Naming convention of proposal submissions: **Proposal_(First name_Last name of PI)**
- Naming convention of CVs submissions: **CV_(First name_Last name of Researcher)**

Proposal Evaluation

Project Assessment: Sample Considerations

- Does the proposal describe how this doctoral graduate research assistant would support the generation of funded research, publications, creative works or other scholarly outcomes?
- Does the proposal clearly support UNLV top tier goals and metrics?
- Is the TTDGRA project rigorous, clearly explained, and doable during the project timeline?
- Is the proposal detailed and specific, with an appropriate scope of project?
- Is the proposed work for the TTDGRA student clear and appropriate?
- Are there clear deliverables or outcomes specified?
- Does the project have the potential to secure additional funding, especially from external sources? (Once awarded and within the award period, awardees must submit a grant proposal that includes support for a GA.)

Sample Personnel Considerations

- Are the lead applicants tenure track or tenured faculty?
- Does the project involve an interdisciplinary team of researchers (all projects should have at least a total number of 2 faculty members with at least one of them a faculty at the assistant rank)?
- Do the applicants have a successful record of graduate student mentorship, thereby increasing the likelihood of successful mentoring of their TTDGRA student?
- Do the applicants have a successful record of research, scholarship, or creative activity which prepares them for success with this project?
- If early career faculty, is their record thus far indicative of success and is their proposal well-written and rigorous?
- If mid-career faculty, how does this TTDGRA advance their research, scholarship or creative activity and support their advancement to full, their career advancement, etc.?
- If senior faculty, how does the TTDGRA fit into a successful academic record?

2020-2023 TTDGRA Awardees
The winners of our 2020-2023 Top Tier Doctoral Graduate Research Assistant (TTDGRA) grant competition names and project titles may be viewed on the awardees document here. There were 115 submissions in 2019 (9+ more than in 2017), and 45 TTDGRAs were funded in the 2019-2023 cycle. The funded proposals were from professors of all ranks (51% Assistants; 33% Associates; 16% Professors) and that 67% are based on collaborative, often multidisciplinary, faculty teams.