Graduate Assistantships

The University of Wisconsin-La Crosse offers a variety of graduate assistantships (GAs). Graduate assistantships include teaching (TA), research (RA), and program (PA) assistantships. Graduate assistantships are awarded by the academic program/departments and by a number of other campus offices. Only students who are admitted and remain in good academic standing (http://catalog.uwlax.edu/graduate/academicpolicies/academiceligibility/) are eligible for a graduate assistantship. The student must have completed a bachelor’s degree and be enrolled at UWL for graduate credit or for GRC 799 to be eligible. Online graduate students are eligible for GAs. Graduate assistantships are awarded on a very competitive basis according to the requirements of the position. Students may be awarded a graduate assistantship for no more than four semesters and two summers. Requests for exceptions to this policy should be submitted to the dean of the college in which the graduate program resides.

Interested applicants and current students should communicate directly with the department of intended degree work for more information about graduate assistantships. Available graduate assistant positions (https://employment.uwlax.edu/posting/search?query=&G21=5&query_organizational_tier_3_id=any&query_v0_posted_at_date=any&query_v0_posted_at_date=any&query_v0_posted_at_date=any&query_v0_posted_at_date=any) are posted on the Office of Human Resources’ website. The Financial Aid Office does not administer the graduate assistantship program.

Assistantships are available to resident and nonresident students. All students enrolled in on-campus graduate programs and employed as graduate assistants on campus will at the minimum receive a waiver for a small portion of their resident tuition each semester, but remaining tuition and fees are not waived for most graduate assistants. A limited number of nonresident tuition waivers are available, which cover some or all of a student’s non-resident tuition costs. The in-state portion of graduate tuition is not covered by a non-resident tuition waiver.

Teaching assistant positions are available in several departments which include a payment to cover a portion or all of in-state tuition costs.

Awards may be made for assistantships which require up to 20 hours of responsibilities per week during each semester of the academic year. Those with 14 or fewer assigned hours may carry up to 15 hours of graduate credit and those with 15- to 20-hour assignments should not exceed 12 graduate credits each semester. The student must complete an agreement that both student and graduate school expect to honor in that context. The conditions affecting such offers and their acceptance must be defined carefully and understood by all parties.

UWL complies with the Council of Graduate Schools’ Resolution Regarding Graduate Scholars, Fellows, Trainees, and Assistants which follows:

"Acceptance of an offer of financial support (such as graduate scholarship, fellowship, traineeship, or assistantship) for the next academic year by a prospective or enrolled graduate student completes an agreement that both student and graduate school expect to honor in that context. The conditions affecting such offers and their acceptance must be defined carefully and understood by all parties.

Students are under no obligation to respond to offers of financial support prior to April 15; earlier deadlines for acceptance of such offers violate the intent of this Resolution. In those instances in which a student accepts an offer before April 15, and subsequently desires to withdraw that acceptance, the student may submit in writing a resignation of the appointment at any time through April 15. However, an acceptance given or left in force after April 15 commits the student not to accept another offer without first obtaining a written release from the institution to which a commitment has been made. Similarly, an offer by an institution after April 15 is conditional on presentation by the student of the written release from any previously accepted offer. It is further agreed by the institutions and organization subscribing to the above Resolution that a copy of this Resolution should accompany every scholarship, fellowship, traineeship, and assistantship offer."

1 Student workers may work up to the maximum of 25 hours per calendar week (Sunday through Saturday) during the academic year. Students may work full time during any week when classes are not in session. Periods during which "classes are not in session" include summer breaks, winter intersession, and spring break. Students enrolled in winter intersession or summer classes may work full time during those periods. A student may work a maximum of 1559 total hours in a rolling twelve-month period. (Until notified otherwise, there is a temporary exception to the hours cap granted for resident assistants, resident advisors, and resident counselors.) Student workers hours are aggregated for purposes of the ACA Employer Mandate and IRS reporting among all institutions in the UW System. Thus, a student worker’s hours will be combined for all employment positions in more than one university department or more than one UW institution. Hours worked due to a Federal Work Study (FWS) program do not count toward the calculation of hours of service earned for purposes of the ACA.

2 This deadline assumes a program begins in fall semester. Programs beginning earlier may have an earlier acceptance date.

Additional related information

Financial Aid: Graduate financial aid is awarded based on university enrollment status of degree seeking student. Students must be enrolled in at least five credits within a single semester or five credits during the summer to be eligible for financial aid. Students must be enrolled in at least nine credits within a single semester or nine credits during the summer to be considered full-time. Credits must be applicable to the student’s declared degree program. Financial aid is reduced accordingly for students enrolled less than full-time, but at least half-time (five credits).

International Students: International students interested in an assistantship must also satisfy the enrollment requirements of their student visa. More details can be found under the international graduate student credit load (http://catalog.uwlax.edu/graduate/academicpolicies/registrationschedules/#load-international) section of the catalog.