

AL GRADUATE STUDENT RESEARCH PROJECT AWARDS

GOALS: AL Graduate Student Research Project Awards (RPA) will be made to qualified graduate students advised by AL faculty for the purposes of *1) promoting and facilitating student-led research at AL and 2) improving the overall quality of thesis research being conducted at the laboratory*. Funding for these awards will be provided on an annual basis through the tuition return (or in some cases, from indirect cost recovery from research grants and contracts if available). Proposals for these one-year awards will usually be solicited in March of each year and must be submitted by the end of April. Note that these awards are *not* meant for students with adequate support being provided through sponsored research grants and contracts.

PERIOD OF SUPPORT AND BENEFITS: AL Graduate Student RPA will be made to AL graduate students for a period of 12 months beginning with the date of the award (normally June through May). The maximum amount of each award is \$2000. Funding may be used for any legitimate, justifiable research purpose **excluding** the following: travel to professional meetings (which is covered by a separate travel fellowship program) and graduate student salaries, wages, and fringe benefits (which are covered by separate fellowship and teaching assistantship programs). Funds in the student's name will be held in an AL research account (or subaccount) for the 12-month project period; all unspent or unencumbered funds remaining at the end of the award period will be liquidated.

QUALIFICATIONS AND ELIGIBILITY: To be eligible for consideration for an AL Graduate Student RPA, a student must: (1) be advised by an AL faculty member, (2) be in good academic standing within his/her graduate school, and (3) have completed an approved thesis research proposal.

PROPOSAL AND SELECTION PROCESS: Applications for an AL Graduate Student RPA must include the following elements described in a short (< 2 pages) "letter" proposal: (1) the specific amount of research funding requested; (2) a description (abstract) of the student's thesis research proposal, including a statement that details the current status of the student's research program; (3) a statement describing the expected impact of the RPA on the *quality* of the student's overall research program; and (4) a budget showing specifically how the awarded funds would be spent. In addition, each proposal must include a brief letter from the student's faculty advisor assuring that the student is in good academic standing and that a research committee has received and approved the student's thesis proposal. It is anticipated that funds will be available to support two to four RPA each year.

Proposals will be judged by the AL Graduate Education Committee primarily on the basis of the likely overall impact that the RPA would have on the quality of the student's thesis research (i.e., a criterion taking both need and merit into account). Students whose proposals are selected for funding will be notified by May 31st.

Proposals must be submitted by April 30th to:

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