MSU Graduate Innovation Assistantship
Competitive Program
Call for Applications – Academic Year 2013-14
Due Date: April 1, 2013

The Office of the Provost, in coordination with the Committee for Institutional Studies and Research, is soliciting applications for the 2013-2014 competitive Graduate Innovation Assistantships. Innovation Assistantships will be awarded to Graduate students working on an innovative project under the supervision of a faculty mentor. Recipients of these awards will receive a Graduate Assistantship stipend totaling $6,250 per year with an additional $1,400 of Graduate Advancement Funds totaling $7,650.

The assistantships are for ONE academic year, however recipients may reapply for a second year. No guarantee is made that any student will be awarded a second year of a Graduate Innovation Assistantship, as all awards are competitively based. No graduate student shall receive a Graduate Innovation Assistantship for more than four semesters of support.

Eligibility criteria include the following:

- Must be admitted unconditionally to a graduate program as a degree-seeking student and have achieved a minimum undergraduate or graduate cumulative grade point average of 3.2 (on a 0 - 4.0 scale)
- Must be enrolled in at least six hours of graduate coursework each semester during the two semesters of the award (unless otherwise approved by the University Graduate Coordinator) and maintain a 3.2 GPA
- Must work on the proposed project for a minimum of ten (10) hours per week (documented) under the direct supervision of the faculty mentor during both semesters of the award. Work hours may NOT include teaching, teaching assistantship duties, administrative duties, or work in the mentor’s lab that does not directly lead to the student’s Innovation Assistantship project.
- Required completion of a poster or presentation either at the MSU Scholars Week during the spring semester or at a conference or other public forum. (Up to $200 of additional funding per assistantship is available for support of this presentation.)
- The proposed project must exemplify innovation; the applicant must be the primary researcher, scholar, or creator of the proposed project. This project may be work that becomes a part of another researcher’s overall project, but the applicant must demonstrate the way(s) in which the proposed project is the applicant’s unique responsibility and in some way his/her own innovative work.
- Applicants for the Graduate Innovation Assistantship may concurrently hold another MSU graduate assistantship as long as the project hours (10) and other work are not compromised. However, successful applicants for this award may require alteration be made in the working hours of the other assistantship. The University Graduate Coordinator will assist you in this alteration, if needed.