**Graduate Teaching Assistantships, Graduate Student Assistantships, and Fellowships**

Each year, students are invited to apply for Graduate Teaching Assistantships, Graduate Student Assistantships, and Fellowships.

Students who receive an initial award of funding upon admission or in a later application will receive information about the number of years of funding they can plan on receiving, given continued satisfactory academic standing. For those years, students do not need to submit new application materials each year. If students wish to apply for an additional year of funding after the initial award, they should submit application materials as described below. There are a limited number of funding opportunities in the department, so the awards are competitive. For a full list of available opportunities, visit the English Department website (clas.wayne.edu/English/Graduate-Studies)

**Timing and Availability**

Nine-month Graduate Teaching Assistantships (GTAs) typically begin in the Fall term, but may be available to start in the Winter term in special circumstances. Depending on availability and approval by the Graduate School, some number of English graduate students may also be supported via Graduate Student Assistantships (GSAs) and Graduate Research Assistantships (GRAs); these are typically twelve-month appointments that begin during the Fall term. Current GTAs, GSAs, and GRAs interested in such an assignment may also apply to teach summer courses in the department of English via a GTA appointment. Fellowships provide an academic year (nine months) of support and, when available, are awarded for both recruiting new students and the completion of dissertations.

**Due Date of Applications**

Applications received by January 15th receive priority in the consideration for assistantships and fellowships. Award decisions will begin on March 1 and continue until April 15. Decisions regarding the reappointment of assistantships are communicated to students no later than June 15 for appointments beginning the following Fall term and December 1 for appointments beginning in the following Winter term. Applications for summer teaching under a GTA appointment are typically due April 15 for positions beginning the following Spring/Summer term; notifications are made on a rolling basis between the time of application and the start of the semester and are made by the Department Scheduling Committee.

**Application Materials**

Students who are seeking new admission to the graduate program in English will find materials about applying for funding at wayne.edu/admissions/graduate and on the Department of English website (clas.wayne.edu/English/Graduate-Admission). Application materials for the reappointment of funding or for students applying for funding who are already enrolled but are currently not funded are distributed to all students on an annual basis via the graduate student listserv.
Criteria
According to English Department ByLaws, Graduate Teaching Assistantships, Graduate Student Assistantships, and Fellowships are approved by the Chairperson of the Department of English.

Assistantships and fellowships are awarded on a competitive basis to superior students admitted to the M.A. and Ph.D. programs:

• In the case of new student awards for 9-month teaching assistantships and recruiting fellowships, the department considers the promise of and/or present achievement in research and teaching.
• In the case of internal or extended student awards for 9-month teaching assistantships or dissertation completion fellowships, the department considers all of the following criteria: the applicant’s academic standing, progress toward the degree, teaching excellence and related professional development, and the applicant’s promise of and/or present achievement in research.
• In the case of hiring for summer teaching as well as for nonteaching student assistantships (GSAs), hiring criteria specific to those positions will be identified at the time of posting.

Nondiscrimination statement (Article X of the Collective Bargaining Agreement between WSU and the Graduate Employees Organizing Committee-American Federation of Teachers):
A. Wayne State University and the GEC (Graduate Employees Organizing Committee – American Federation of Teachers) recognize an obligation and reaffirm by this Agreement their commitment to achieve equal employment opportunity and nondiscrimination within the University. Accordingly, it is agreed that, consistent with University policies, the University and members of the bargaining unit shall not discriminate on the basis of race, color, veteran status, height, weight, ethnicity, religion, creed, political affiliation, political beliefs, membership in any social or political organization, national origin, ancestry, marital or parental status, age, gender, gender identity or expression, pregnancy, sexual orientation, or disability, including HIV status, of those capable of performing their professional duties. Nothing in this section shall be construed to prohibit Wayne State University from the application of bona fide occupational qualifications as may be appropriate or from taking such measures as may be permissible by law, to protect the health and safety of the University community.

B. Employees who believe that they have been subject to discrimination in violation of this article may choose to pursue their claim either through the University’s internal discrimination process administered by the Department of Equal Opportunity or through the grievance procedure of this Agreement. The initial choice of one of these two internal procedures is binding as to the discrimination aspect of any claim and prohibits the filing or processing that same discrimination
claim through any other internal procedure. An employee may first attempt to resolve his or her claim informally with his or her immediate supervisor without invoking the grievance procedure. If the employee proceeds through the grievance procedure, the grievance will begin at Step 2 as set forth in Article III of this Agreement.

C. The Parties agree that neither the University nor Union shall directly, or indirectly, discriminate against any employee with respect to hours, wages, or any terms, or conditions of employment by reason of such employee’s membership in the Union, such employee’s participation in any activities of the Union or collective professional negotiations with the University, or such employee’s institution of any grievance, complaint, or proceeding under this Agreement or otherwise with respect to any terms or conditions of employment.