

BOTANY, PHD

FUNDING

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GRADUATE SCHOOL RESOURCES

Resources to help you afford graduate study might include assistantships, fellowships, traineeships, and financial aid. Further funding information (<https://grad.wisc.edu/funding/>) is available from the Graduate School. Be sure to check with your program for individual policies and restrictions related to funding.

PROGRAM RESOURCES

Financial support is available to qualified graduate students in the form of teaching, research, and project **assistantships** and **fellowships**. Typically, there are approximately 35 graduate students who hold assistantships or fellowships in the botany department. In addition, graduate students are eligible for a number of **intradepartmental awards and grants**.

Graduate students who have a teaching, research, or project assistantship of at least a 33.3% appointment (approximately 13.3 hours per week) for a fall or spring term are eligible to receive **remission of full tuition**. Fellowships or traineeships that are payrolled through the university and that carry stipends equivalent to at least a 33.3% research assistantship also qualify for remission of nonresident tuition. Tuition remission is conditionally awarded at the start of the semester based on the expectation that actual earnings during the semester will be at least 33.3% of the full-time rate. All students pay segregated fees. The only exception is that fellowships paid through the Graduate School have segregated fees waived in addition to tuition.

Assistantships and fellowships also provide **eligibility for an excellent health insurance program**, an extremely valuable benefit that provides single or family coverage that is more comprehensive than individuals can usually purchase on their own.

TEACHING ASSISTANTSHIPS

The most common source of support is a teaching assistantship. Historically, stipend rates for teaching and project assistants are governed by the Teaching Assistants' Association (TAA) bargaining unit.

To receive a teaching assistantship, candidates for admission must meet the following requirements:

- evidence (usually from the undergraduate transcript) of an appropriate background in the relevant subject matter of the course(s) to which appointment is being considered;
- evidence (usually from letters of recommendation or verbal communication) of the candidate's potential as a teaching assistant;
- an undergraduate GPA of 3.0 or above (on a 4.0 scale); and
- for students whose native language is not English, evidence of competence in spoken English through the SPEAK test that is administered by the UW. International applicants should note that a TA appointment is not normally possible during the first year of graduate study.

Current students who apply for their first teaching assistantship are also subject to the above criteria, as well as their performance as a graduate student. Reappointment as a teaching assistant depends upon satisfactory progress as a graduate student, satisfactory performance as a teaching assistant, and completing the Equity/Diversity TA Training.

Teaching assistants may be eligible for University teaching awards (<https://grad.wisc.edu/taawards/>), including the UW–Madison Early Excellence in Teaching Award, UW–Madison Exceptional Service Award, UW–Madison Innovation in Teaching Award, UW–Madison Capstone PhD Teaching Award, and the College of Letters & Science Teaching Fellow.

RESEARCH OR PROJECT ASSISTANTSHIPS

Research and project assistantships are made possible by grants awarded to individual professors for particular research programs. Recipients are selected by the individual professor concerned. Availability of research and project assistantships varies.

ADVANCED OPPORTUNITY FELLOWSHIPS

Advanced Opportunity Fellowships (AOF) are granted to the UW–Madison's Graduate School by the State of Wisconsin and are combined with other graduate education funds to support the recruitment and retention of highly qualified underrepresented students in UW–Madison graduate programs. Fellowships are competitive and merit-based. AOF funding is intended to increase the racial and ethnic diversity of the graduate student population, as well as to support economically disadvantaged and first-generation college students. AOF fellowships are paid through the Graduate School by the College of Letters & Science's **Community of Graduate Research Scholars (<http://ls.wisc.edu/current-students/graduate-students/cgrs/>)** (C-GRS) program.

EXTERNAL FELLOWSHIPS

Fellowships from professional societies and outside agencies provide another important source of aid for which students may apply either before or after commencing graduate work at UW–Madison. If necessary, external fellowships can often be supplemented with university funds up to prevailing university fellowship rates.

All qualified students who are U.S. citizens, nationals, or permanent resident aliens of the U.S. are urged to apply to the National Science Foundation for the pre-doctoral fellowship competition. Students apply directly to NSF; the closing date is usually in early November. Please check the NSF website (<http://www.nsf.gov/>) for the application instructions and deadline.

INTRADEPARTMENTAL FELLOWSHIPS AND AWARDS

For more information on Intradepartmental Fellowships and Awards, please see the latest descriptions (<https://botany.wisc.edu/financial-support/>) on the botany website.