**College of Sciences**  
**The University of Texas Rio Grande Valley**  
**Dean’s Graduate Research Assistantships**

**Purpose:** To facilitate recruitment of high quality graduate students to the College of Sciences

**Number of Graduate Research Assistantships:** 10

**Assistantship Amount:** $15,000 for one year including summer plus $7,200 scholarship each year for up to two years to cover tuition and fees.

**Eligibility:** Assistantships are available only to new, full-time graduate students who are being recruited to UTRGV; Continuing or current graduate students are not eligible. This assistantship cannot run concurrently with other graduate fellowships from NIH, NSF, DOD, or USDA-NIFA, etc.

**Procedure:** Potential faculty mentors recruit high quality students from top US or World universities to their departmental graduate programs. Each Department/School Graduate Studies Committee reviews the applications and submits top three nominations to the Dean’s Office by March 20, 2018. Application package will include candidate’s full application formally submitted to the Graduate College including GPA and GRE scores, undergraduate transcripts, three external letters of recommendations, a letter of support from the potential graduate faculty mentor, and a letter of nomination from the Department/School Graduate Studies Committee Chair co-signed by the Department Chair/School Director that includes second year GTA/GRA commitment. Dean’s office will set up a committee chaired by the Associate Dean for Research and Educational Innovations to review all nominations and make final selections of the candidates. Selected candidates will be notified by March 30, 2018 for the Fall admission and a letter of financial support covering the two-year study period (see below) will be provided.

**Expectations from the selected students, faculty mentors and their departments/schools:**
Selected students and their faculty mentors commit to:
- Submitting at least one original research paper to a refereed journal within six months of graduation;
- Maintaining a minimum OGPA of 3.50.
- Co-mentoring at least one high school or undergraduate student in their research project;
- Student serving as a Teaching Assistant for at least one or two semesters during the two-year MS study duration depending upon the faculty mentors’ grant funding availability;
- Faculty mentor provides financial support for the student’s research project.

**Faculty mentors and their department/school commit to:**
- Providing GTA/GRA support for two semesters and for one summer as needed;
- Reviewing student progress regularly;
- Making courses available for the student to graduate within two years.