Summer Research Assignment (SRA)

General information

The COE Summer Research Assignment provides up to two months of summer salary funding for Assistant Professors in the College of Education to concentrate on research and writing during the summer. Awards are to be used for research purposes, such as to prepare grant proposals or write papers or chapters.

A recipient who elects to leave the university without returning for an academic year, whether because of resignation or retirement, is obligated to reimburse the university for funds (gross salary plus fringe benefits) expended in support of the SRA.

The Associate Dean for Research and Graduate Studies distributes an announcement to the education faculty listserv in late August/early September asking for applicants for SRAs. The application is due to the graduate school in October. SRAs are awarded to Assistant Professors for the following summer for one or two months of salary. The number of SRAs/FRAs awarded is contingent upon the total funds available as well as the number of applicants and their salaries.

SRA applications must be first approved by the applicant’s department chair who will also rank the applicants within his/her department. Applications are then reviewed by the COE Research Committee, which is composed of faculty from all COE departments. The Associate Dean for Research and Graduate Studies will organize and attend all application review meetings, but is not a voting member of the committee. The COE Research Committee makes final decisions about awards and decisions are forwarded to the Dean for approval.

Decision letters are prepared by the Associate Dean for Research and Graduate Studies according to the draft templates attached and distributed in early December. The Dean and the Associate Dean for Research and Graduate Studies will sign acceptances and denials. Acceptance letters are to be signed by the awardee faculty, returned to the Associate Dean by January 31, and the Dean would sign as well. Original signed forms are kept in faculty personnel files (managed by the Office of the Dean EA), and copies are sent to the awardee faculty member, their department chair, Assistant Dean for Financial Affairs, Dean's Office HR director, and the Graduate School Faculty Development Program coordinator.

Eligibility

- Assistant Professors only
- Cannot have received an SRA the previous year
- Eligible to apply if an SRA was received at least two years ago (prior to the year immediately previous), but previous awardees are given lower priority than those who have never received an SRA
- Applicants must receive the approval of their department chair prior to submitting an application

How to apply

To apply for an SRA Award, submit the following (using Times New Roman font size 12 with no less than one-inch borders):

1) Project proposal that is no longer than three single-spaced pages (references are not included in the page count).

2) 4-page CV highlighting relevant research publications and funding. Clearly indicate if/when SRA previously has been awarded.

The proposal should include a title and outline the project rationale and significance, research questions, and a research plan that clearly specifies the methods and methodology, as well as the short-term (e.g., peer-reviewed articles, chapters) and long-term goals and products of the proposed project (e.g., grant proposal – which must include the intended granting agency). Preference for awards will be given to proposals that outline a clearly defined, well-justified and feasible project that will contribute to the submission of a proposal for external funding or provide support for research complementary to existing external funding.

This application will be submitted to the graduate school through the Graduate School Awards System and is due no later than October 16 for the following academic year. Information about submission and additional information about the SRA can be found on the Graduate School site. Successful applicants will be notified in early December if funding was approved for the following academic year. Following the SRA, successful applicants will be required to submit a summary report detailing research results.

No Faculty Request for Leave form is required during the summer.

Please contact the COE Associate Dean for Research and Graduate Studies with any questions.
Resources

- Graduate School: Summer Research Assignments

Please send suggested additions to this page and notifications about broken links to COE-HR@austin.utexas.edu.