

AL GRADUATE STUDENT RESEARCH PROJECT AWARDS

AL Graduate Student Research Project Awards (RPA) will be made to qualified graduate students advised by AL faculty for the purposes of *1) promoting and facilitating student-led research at AL and 2) improving the overall quality of thesis research conducted at AL*. Funding for these awards will be provided through our tuition return and other sources. These awards are *not* intended for students who receive adequate support through sponsored research grants and contracts.

PERIOD OF SUPPORT AND BENEFITS: AL Graduate Student RPA will be made to AL graduate students for a period of 24 months beginning with the date of the award. A student may be awarded up to \$4,000 during their program of study, distributed across any number of awards. Funding may be used for any legitimate, justifiable research purpose, **excluding** the following: travel to professional meetings (which is covered by a separate travel fellowship program) and graduate student salaries, wages, and fringe benefits (which are covered by separate fellowship and teaching assistantship programs). Funds in the student's name will be held in an AL research account (or subaccount) for the project period; all unspent or unencumbered funds remaining at the end of the award period will be liquidated. The Graduate Education Committee has sole discretion to adjust the award size and terms based on funding availability.

QUALIFICATIONS AND ELIGIBILITY: To be eligible for consideration for an AL Graduate Student RPA, a student must: (1) be advised by an AL faculty member, and (2) be in good academic standing within his/her graduate school.

PROPOSAL AND SELECTION PROCESS: Applications for an AL Graduate Student RPA must include the following elements described in a short (max 5 pages) proposal: (1) description of the proposed research (including Introduction, Methods, and Expected Results); (2) a statement describing the student's research program, including current status, how the proposed research fits into the student's thesis research, and expected impact of the RPA on the *quality* of the student's overall research program; and (3) a budget and budget justification showing specifically how the awarded funds would be spent; (4) justification that no sponsored research grants/contracts funding is available to support the proposed research. In addition, each proposal must include a brief letter of support from the student's faculty advisor (not included in the 5-page limit).

Proposals will be judged by the AL Graduate Education Committee primarily based on the likely overall impact that the RPA would have on the quality of the student's thesis research, i.e., a criterion that considers both need and merit.

Proposals will be accepted on a rolling basis. Proposals should be submitted to the chair of AL's Graduate Education Committee:

Dr. Zach Zbinden
AL GEC Chair
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