

POSC Grad Funding

Fall 2024

The situation we are in...

- The CHASS dean gives us a budget to fund TA appointments each year, and the number of positions we can fund remains unchanged from previous years
- In most years, the number of positions that were funded nearly matched the number of PhD students seeking a TA position
- However, this year we had an unexpected and unprecedented surge in requests for TA positions from students:
 - SPRING 2023: 31 positions vs. 31 requests
 - FALL 2023: 29 positions vs. 35 requests
 - WINTER 2024: 31 positions vs. 36 requests
 - SPRING 2024: 30 positions vs. 36 requests
 - **FALL 2024: 31 positions vs. 46 requests**
- This creates a shortage of **15** positions

Funding Our Grad Students is the Department's Top Priority

- I am new as chair and many of you do not know me, but I have been in the department for 20+ years
- I absolutely can assure you that the department has not changed its “norms” about how much we support our grad students
- The TA budget is given to us based on the department's teaching needs, and that is set in the spring, before we know the demand for TAs
- But, there are things the department **can** to to try to make the situation better

Two campus norms that have changed...

- One norm that has changed is that CHASS is now packaging first year TA positions in PhD student funding, which we have never done before and we prefer not to do
- Grad Division has eliminated the GRMP & DYP and replaced them with awards that are harder to win and no longer guarantee any allocation of fellowship awards to departments

What the Department is Doing to Address the Situation

- Things we have already done:
 - We have hired one PhD student (Adam Hobbs) as the departmental GSR for the academic year
 - We have posted three AI positions
 - Gary is helping students navigate inquiries to other departments that might have open TA opportunities. Two students have found TA positions elsewhere so far
 - After we hire the AIs we will be down to **9** students needing funding
- What we are currently doing:
 - The department has restarted a program to subsidize GSR appointments for faculty, where the department will pay the tuition and fees. I have personally reached out to individual faculty that have funding available asking them to see if their projects can use a GSR
 - We are reaching out to the college for approval to add TA positions

Fall 2024 AI Open Positions – please apply!

- Courses:
 - POSC 125 UNITED STATES FOREIGN POLICY SINCE WORLD WAR II
 - POSC 168 CONSTITUTIONAL LAW: CRIMINAL JUSTICE
 - POSC 180S THE POLITICS OF PUBLIC HEALTH (Esterling taught this in Spring 2024 and will share all materials (readings, slides, exams etc))
- Hiring process:
 - See the announcement sent to the grad list and follow the submission instructions
 - Fill out the Google form asking for expressions of interest.
 - Students who have already been offered a TA position for the fall can express an interest. If someone with a TA appointment gets the AI, then we can give their TA to someone else.
 - The department reviews the applications and makes a recommendation to the faculty to vote
- Please apply!!

Other Things You Can Do – short term

- Please apply to be a reader. We have some (but not many) reader positions for Fall 2024. It is **possible** that that would come with a tuition remission depending on your hours
- If you are a **domestic student**
 - You can opt for a “ready to enroll” designation where you will not be charged tuition and fees, but you will not have health insurance coverage or income. To have this status, simply don’t enroll for fall quarter. You can do this for two quarters. But then you can search for employment off campus
 - You can apply for Federal Direct Loans through the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA), to supplement their tuition and living expenses while finishing up their degree
 - You can search for jobs through <https://ucr.joinhandshake.com>, although these jobs may not be fee remission eligible positions
 - You cannot have a leave of absence for lack of funding. See <https://graduate.ucr.edu/regulations-and-procedures#leave-of-absence>
- If you are an **international student**, we are working with the International Students Office to understand how to best navigate forward for international students – please be in close contact with me and Marissa if you are an international student

Things You Can Do – long term

- Please consider applying for external grants! We can extend the subsidy to you

Questions?

- Dept subsidy will apply this year if you get external funding (but it has to be external). Subsidy only applies if your grant is enough to cover your living expenses
- Only campus positions under ASE contract cover tuition and fees if you go above a certain percent
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