

## Getting Funding at UW-Madison

There are **four** basic ways of getting funding at UW-Madison. For getting funding/tuition remission, you need to have a minimum of 33% appointment. As an International student, we can work for maximum of 20 hrs a week which corresponds to 50% appointment. Here 100% appointment corresponds to 40 hours a week work. Hence 33% appointment corresponds to around 13 hrs a week of Graduate hours work.

Fours ways to get funding:  
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### 1) Research Assistantship (RA):

For this the student needs to do research under a professor in a specific field. Getting a RA is little difficult for M.S students as most of the profs require a long term commitment of at least 2 years or a PhD commitment. Also you should have interest in the field in which the professor is doing research. To get a RA, you should contact the professor after going through his website, his publications and making sure that this is the field which interests you.

### 2) Teaching Assistantship (TA):

A TA has to teach students, conduct classes and labs for the course. The work of a TA is basically to help the professor take the class and perform other work inline with the course objectives. In some cases, the TA will have to take the classes by himself. This is lot of work and will take most of your time. People having background in Physics and Math can apply for TA in these departments. Many international students from India get TAship in Physics and Math. But to apply for a TA position you have to clear the TSE (Test of Spoken English) exam. The TSE exam is free of cost if taken at UW-Madison. There are specific dates for the exam and the details can be found online. Also student coming for ECE department can apply for TA position with their Graduate Secretary. Unfortunately Industrial Engineering department does not have any structured way of hiring TA's as it is the responsibilities of the professor for that course to find the TA. Normally the TA position in Industrial Engineering is given to a senior person under the professor or the person who is working for the professor.

### 3) Project Assistantship (PA):

The work done by a graduate student dealing with a specific project is generally referred to as a PA. In other universities it is called Graduate Assistantship (GA). The work can range from statistical data analysis, scientific experimentation to web application development, system analysis, programming etc. This is the most common type of funding got by an International Student. A student with good computer skills can get PA positions easily. Most of the PA positions are advertised on Job Center Web Site (<http://jobcenter.wisc.edu/>). As a University rule, all the PA positions have to be advertised so that everyone gets equal opportunity to apply for the position. Other resources that can be useful for finding a PA position is to talk to the Graduate Secretary of the various departments, reading the advertisements on the notice boards of each departments on the campus. Also most of the people get funding in the Education Sciences and

Department of Educations as they have positions which require students with excellent computer skills (programming).

**4) Graduate Hourly Position (PA hourly):**

This is basically a tuition remission kind of position instead of tuition waiver. In this the student who does not have above said funding positions, needs to pay his fees at the start and if the student is successful in accumulating **260 Graduate Hours** for the semester (Fall and Spring semester), then the student gets the tuition back at the end of the semester. To achieve this, the position has to be advertised as a *PA Hourly* position which requires Graduate level of knowledge. **Grading** is considered a kind of PA hourly position. *Math* and *Physics* departments have grading positions available ranging from 60 hours to 260 hours for the entire semester. The student needs to apply for these positions before start of the college. There is a tough competition for getting a grading position also and hence you need to be in constant touch with the department. There are other ways to get PA Hourly positions which can be only done by a graduate student. Most of the times, such positions are advertised as Student Hourly (undergrad) and which do not qualify for PA hourly. For being classified as PA Hourly, the hourly pay should be at least \$12/hr (based on information as on 1<sup>st</sup> Jan 2005) and should involve graduate level work. Student needs to be careful about this and can discuss this with the *Teaching Assistant Association (TAA)* on the campus, if they feel the position advertised actually requires Graduate student knowledge and skills. But this takes lot of time and might be very cumbersome. But the students can definitely take the help of TAA.

The above information is compiled to give new students a rough idea about the funding scenario.

Regards,  
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