University of Minnesota Fun Facts

1. Our faculty, students, and staff come from around the world—140 countries.

2. Our alumni and faculty are responsible for the first wearable cardiac pacemaker, the retractable seat belt, and Post-it Notes.

3. The University of Minnesota was recognized by Forbes as one of America’s Best Large Employers in 2018 and 2019 as well as a Best Employer for Diversity in 2018.

4. The League of American Bicyclists recognized the University of Minnesota with a Platinum Bicycle Friendly University award.

Our Mission

The mission of Graduate Assistant Employment Services is to help graduate assistants advance their educational goals. We support the overarching mission of the Office of Human Resources and the University of Minnesota and work with other University departments to provide a friendly, problem-solving environment that makes the graduate assistant employment process as seamless as possible.
What Is a Graduate Student Assistantship?

Graduate assistant employment provides academic jobs to graduate students in teaching, research, and administration. Students must be in a graduate or professional degree program to be eligible for a graduate assistantship.

Obtaining a Graduate Assistantship

You can find graduate assistantships in three ways:

1. Guaranteed financial support
   Departments may offer a graduate assistantship as part of the student’s admission and acceptance to a graduate degree program. These positions do not require posting by the department.

2. Internal department posting
   Colleges and departments may post positions online, on a bulletin board, in a newsletter, via email, or other media.

3. University of Minnesota employment website
   You can also find graduate assistant positions on the University’s job search site: z.umn.edu/umnjobs

Graduate Assistantship Benefits

In addition to hourly wages, graduate assistants may be eligible for:

Tuition Benefits
Graduate assistant tuition benefits cover all or part of the cost of your tuition. Graduate assistants are responsible for paying charges not covered by the GA tuition benefit, such as lab, installment, late charge, or late registration fees charged to students’ accounts.

Tuition benefits are based on the number of hours in a GA appointment. To receive tuition benefits, graduate students with a GA appointment must work at least 98 hours during the fall and spring semesters.

Non-Resident Waiver
Graduate assistants may also be eligible to receive a non-resident tuition waiver if they work at least 195 hours during the fall and spring semesters.

Health Plan
To be eligible for the GA health plan, graduate assistants must work at least 195 hours during the fall and spring semesters.

Registration Requirements

Fall or Spring Terms

Students with the following titles and classifications are required to register for at least six credits per term. Registration must be completed by the first day of employment and maintained for the entire semester. Registering for audit-only courses does not fulfill the registration requirements, but students may register for a combination of grad and audit courses.

- Administrative fellow: 9531
- Graduate instructor: 9515
- Graduate research project assistant: 9526
- Research assistant: 9521
- Teaching assistant: 9511

Advanced master’s or PhD candidates are required to register for at least one credit during the fall and spring semesters.

- Administrative fellow: 9532, 9533
- Graduate instructor: 9517
- Research assistant: 9528, 9529
- Research project assistant: 9527
- Teaching assistant: 9518, 9519

Note: Registration for GRAD 0999 does not fulfill the registration requirements.