

Outstanding Teaching Award for Graduate Students

2015-16

Call for Applications

Applications are invited for the 2015-2016 Outstanding Teaching Award (OTA) for graduate students. The award is offered to recognize the valuable contributions of graduate students to teaching and learning at UC Merced. During the spring, any graduate student may self-nominate themselves by completing an online OTA application.

Eligible students

- Must be currently enrolled in 12 units.
- Must be in good academic standing.
- Any teaching contributions will be considered, regardless of the academic year or semester in which they were performed.
- Previous winners of the OTA are not eligible to receive the award again.

Submit an Application Online:

- A. Statement (1-2 pages)
- B. Optional: Teaching evaluations
- C. Letters of Recommendation

Statements must be within 1-2 pages describing the applicant's outstanding qualities in teaching. Evidence should be shown of creativity and/or extra effort in improving instruction and teaching effectiveness. The statement may comment on the applicant's rapport with students, availability, willingness to hold special help sessions, efforts to stimulate independent thinking, and any other contributions to instruction worthy of recognition.

Selection Process

Applications are provided to the Graduate Council (GC) for review, and the GC makes recommendations to the Graduate Division. Review criteria will include adherence to the fellowship guidelines and the teaching performance of the applicant. Final award decisions will be made by the Graduate Dean.

Submit applications online:
<https://gradopportunities.ucmerced.edu/grad>

Submit questions to:
gradfunding@ucmerced.edu

Deadline: Friday, April 1, 2016



Outstanding Teaching Award AY 2015-16

Purpose

The Outstanding Teaching Award (OTA) is intended to recognize the valuable contributions of graduate students to teaching and learning at UC Merced. During the spring, any graduate student may self-nominate themselves by completing an online OTA application.

Eligibility Requirements & Standards

- Must be currently enrolled in 12 units.
- Must be in good academic standing.
- Any teaching contributions will be considered, regardless of the academic year or semester in which they were performed.
- Previous winners of the OTA are not eligible to receive the award again.

Award Description & Financial Support

- Three graduate students, Ph.D. or Masters, will also receive the Outstanding Teaching Award and \$1,000 to support their education.

Student Loan Impact

- Per federal guidelines, all fellowship and tuition support is taken into consideration when determining student loan eligibility. If the student will receive federal student loans during the same academic year as this award, please note that this award could, and most likely will, reduce their student loan eligibility.

Nomination & Review Procedures

- Graduate students must complete the online application by **April 1, 2016 at 5pm**. The application is available at <https://gradopportunities.ucmerced.edu/grad>. The online application includes the following:
 - Unofficial UCM Transcript – (not required)
 - Curriculum Vitae (CV) – (not required)
 - Statement - (required)
 - Additional Documents – Teaching Evaluations (optional)
 - Letters of Recommendation – (required)
- Statements must be within 1-2 pages describing the applicant's outstanding qualities in teaching. Evidence should be shown of creativity and/or extra effort in improving instruction and teaching effectiveness. The statement may comment on the applicant's rapport with students, availability, willingness to hold special help sessions, efforts to stimulate independent thinking, and any other contributions to instruction worthy of recognition.

- One to three Letters of Recommendation may be solicited by the letter writers. Names and emails must be provided under the Letters of Recommendation tab on the online application form. Letter writers will receive an email request for a letter of support for the applicant. Please note that the letter of support will go to the Graduate Division and the Graduate Council, and will not be visible to the applicant. Letters of Recommendation may include but are not limited to the Instructor of Record (if applicable), Faculty Advisor and any others who have direct knowledge of the applicant's performance. Letters of recommendation must be submitted by **April 8, 2016 by 5pm.**
- Applications are provided to the Graduate Council (GC) for review, and GC makes recommendations to the Graduate Division. Review criteria will include adherence to the fellowship guidelines and the teaching performance of the applicant. Final award decisions will be made by the Graduate Dean.
- The Graduate Division will notify awardees and corresponding Graduate Group Chairs by the end of the spring term.