



### What is an Assistantship?

Funding your graduate education can be a costly task. Fortunately, many College of Engineering & Computer Science departments (CECS) offer various types of assistantships for our graduate students. As described on the UCF College of Graduate Studies' website, graduate assistantships "offer opportunities for students to engage in research, teaching, and other projects during their graduate study." For qualifying assistantships, UCF provides tuition assistance and health insurance coverage. Students also receive a biweekly stipend paid by their hiring department. However, unless specified on the agreement, assistantship students are still responsible for paying other fees associated with his or her tuition.

### Types of Assistantships

- **Graduate Teaching Assistantships (GTAs)** support the class instruction of the department. Students may teach or assist in teaching a course while being supervised by a faculty member. These positions require additional training and academic background. Please consult your program for details about GTA requirements.
- **Graduate Teaching – Grader Assistantships** allow students to grade papers or assist a faculty member in teaching roles directly related to credit-earning formal course instruction. The student works outside the classroom with the faculty supervisor and has no direct contact with students enrolled in the courses.
- **Graduate Research Assistantships (GRAs)** allow students to work on research projects under the supervision of faculty through a grant, their department, or university funding.
- **Graduate Assistantships (GA) provide** assistance with various department activities or with a number of offices on campus. These positions are not common within CECS. Students should be encouraged to search outside of the college for these opportunities.

**To be considered for an assistantship**, you first, must be accepted into a graduate program. Only degree-seeking students may receive an assistantship. Each department has developed its own methods of recruiting, selecting, maintaining, and evaluating graduate assistants. Although most academic departments reserve assistantships for their doctoral students, there are positions available for master-level students. Most departments only offer assistantships for students in their programs, and funding for assistantship positions varies by department. Most fall hires are confirmed by early June, spring hires by October, and summer hires in March.

### Finding Assistantships

You must **contact your academic department directly** to learn more information on their policies and procedures, as well as available positions. Whether GRA and/or GTA assistantships are offered and who can accept these positions. The number of positions available varies within our college's departments and hiring deadlines are strictly enforced.

**Graduate students interested in GTA positions should contact:**

| Department                                 | Contact Person   | Email  | Telephone Number | Office Location |
|--|--|--|------------------|-----------------|
| Civil, Environmental, & Construction Engr. | Dr. Kevin Mackie   | <a href="mailto:Kevin.Mackie@ucf.edu">Kevin.Mackie@ucf.edu</a> | (407) 823-2841   | Engr. 2 – 211   |
| Electrical & Computer Engr.                | Requires a Faculty Nomination, students cannot self-nominate |  |                  |                 |
| Computer Science                           | Requires a Faculty Nomination, students cannot self-nominate |  |                  |                 |
| Industrial Engr. & Mgmt. Systems           | Dr. Waldemar Karwowski                                       | <a href="mailto:wkar@ucf.edu">wkar@ucf.edu</a>                 | (407) 823-2301   | Engr. 2 – 312   |
| Materials Science & Engr.                  | Dr. Jiyu Fang  | <a href="mailto:Jiyu.Fang@ucf.edu">Jiyu.Fang@ucf.edu</a>       | (407) 882-1182   | Engr. 1 – 207   |
| Mechanical & Aerospace Engr.               | Dr. Jihua Gou  | <a href="mailto:Jihau.Gou@ucf.edu">Jihau.Gou@ucf.edu</a>       | (407) 823-2155   | Engr. 1 – 381   |

**Graduate students interested in GRA positions should follow these steps:**

1. Locate your program's website from [www.cecs.ucf.edu](http://www.cecs.ucf.edu).
2. Review the research faculty and labs within your program.
3. Locate the recent research from a particular researcher or lab and determine if it fits well with your own research interest(s).
4. Contact the professor or lab manager about an opening on their team.

You can locate additional research opportunities at: <https://grad.cecs.ucf.edu/prospective-students/research-positions/>

**Here is a list of some colleges and departments, outside of our college, that regularly offer GA positions:**

- Office of Research & Commercialization
- Office of Student Involvement
- College of Graduate Studies
- Student Housing & Resident Life
- Student Government Association
- Student Academic Resource Center

For more information on assistantships, please visit the College of Graduate Studies' website:  
[https://funding.graduate.ucf.edu/seeking\\_assistantships/](https://funding.graduate.ucf.edu/seeking_assistantships/)