

Miami University McNair Graduate Assistantship Program

The federally funded Ronald E. McNair Post-baccalaureate Achievement Program was designed to provide disadvantaged undergraduate students with effective preparation for doctoral programs. This DOE funded TRIO program provides opportunities for research and other scholarly activities, summer internships, seminars, tutoring, academic counseling, and assistance in admission to and securing finances for enrollment in graduate programs. In all McNair programs, at least two thirds of the participants must be low-income, first-generation college students. The remaining participants may be from groups that are underrepresented in graduate education. For FY 2012, more than \$37million was awarded to 158 programs servicing 4,482 students.

The Miami University McNair Graduate Assistantship Program is intended to attract current undergraduate McNair Scholars and McNair Alums to Miami's graduate programs, with the goal to increase the number of diverse domestic students completing graduate study at Miami University.

The Program provides a Graduate School funded stipend and tuition waiver for one academic semester per year for either two years for master's students or three years for doctoral students. During the student's program they will also be provided an additional Graduate School funded Research Assistantship for either one semester for master's students or two semesters for doctoral students. The student will choose which semester(s) they wish to be appointed on the Research Assistantship. This will result in either three semesters or five semesters of Graduate School funded support for master's or doctoral students, respectively. Departments will provide the remaining stipend and tuition waiver for the duration of the student's graduate program. When not on the Research Assistantship, the nominating department will assign assistantship duties for the awardee.

Faculty can nominate students applying to a Miami University graduate program who are currently a McNair Scholar or McNair alumni. An applicant awarded a Master's McNair Assistantship who subsequently applies to a doctoral program at Miami University is eligible for a Doctoral McNair Assistantship. Doctoral students are eligible for the Dissertation Scholarship award in their final year of study.

Nomination Process:

Nominations are due annually on February 15th or March 15th. Nominations must include the *Ronald E. McNair Assistantship Nomination Form*, and a letter of support from the Graduate Director or Department Chair that addresses the applicant's qualifications and academic promise. Nominations will be accepted after March 15th if awards are available. Nominations should be submitted to Valerie Robinson at robinsvo@MiamiOH.edu.

Decision Process:

The review process will start the week following February 15th and March 15th, with decisions being announced within two weeks. Selection will be based on excellence using a holistic review, considering the applicant's application and the nominating graduate program's letter of support and recommendation.