Research Assistantships (RA)

Research Assistantships (RAs) are granted by faculty members to academically qualified individuals who are primarily engaged in assisting with research projects. RAs are negotiated directly with the faculty member(s) involved. Research assistants must hold a bachelor’s degree.

Research assistants may be appointed either on a part-time or full-time basis, according to the following stipulations:

- Part-time RAs are defined as individuals whose appointments are for no more than a maximum of 50 percent of full-time appointments and on a semester basis, and may not, in any case, exceed a period of nine months. A part-time research assistant is not eligible for termination benefits or for enrollment in the health insurance plan (HIP), as per the provisions of the retirement program and HIP. If appointed at less than 50 percent time, the contract may extend beyond nine months, but not more than 11 months.

- Full-time RAs are on full-time appointments and have benefits that vary according to the duration of their contracts. Those who have contracts for a period of more than three months are entitled to join the HIP program. However, to benefit from the reduction of tuition fees (for oneself) accorded to other full-time employees as part of the staff education benefit; the contract must be for a period of at least one year. Termination benefits under “Plan B” and the staff education benefits must be budgeted in the grant or through other funds.