

M.S. Biology Student Funding Opportunities

Graduate Assistantships

Every year a limited number of assistantships are awarded to new and continuing graduate students in the program. Information on these assistantships can be found in the WCU Graduate Catalog (page 22 in the hard copy version or online at: <https://catalog.wcupa.edu/general-information/tuition-fees-financial-aid/graduate-assistantships/>).

Please note that there are also Residence Hall Graduate Assistantships that you might be eligible for. Information on these can also be found in the WCU Graduate Catalog (page 22 in the hard copy version or online at: <https://catalog.wcupa.edu/general-information/tuition-fees-financial-aid/graduate-assistantships/>).

Awards and Grants

The Department of Biology, College of Sciences and Mathematics, Graduate School, and outside sources can provide awards and grants for M.S. students. Among these are the:

Biology Student Research Award

The purpose of this award is to support student research by providing funds to a selected student for expenses associated with research and scholarship. Specifically, the funds may be used for the purchase of equipment and supplies, publication costs, or travel. Funds will be granted to a student to perform their proposed research in the lab of a faculty member. Announcements of proposals to be submitted are made to the faculty (so ask your research advisor to look out for these) and are posted on the M.S. bulletin board in the hall outside the Department of Biology office.

Graduate Dean's Professional Development Award

The Graduate Dean's Professional Development Award provides funding to current graduate students to attend conferences that are beneficial to professional development and degree advancement. To be eligible, graduate students must be actively enrolled in classes at WCU, and the professional conference must take place while the graduate student is actively enrolled. Students who are presenting at a conference are eligible for an award up to \$500 for domestic travel or up to \$1,000 for international travel. Students who are attending a conference domestically are eligible for an award up to \$250 or up to \$750 for international conferences. Students may apply for the award once per academic year. Applications are reviewed three times per year. Students are encouraged to apply for the award as early as possible in the semester to increase the likelihood of funding. More information on this award can be found on the Graduate School's website at: https://www.wcupa.edu/_admissions/SCH_DGR/conferencefunding.aspx.

Sigma Xi Graduate Grants

Competitive grants are available from this science research honor society. For information on them, go to: <https://www.sigmaxi.org/programs/grants-in-aid>.

Regarding other research related grants, be proactive in asking your research advisor to help identify and consider applying for such potential grants as they are often only announced to faculty, or because only faculty can apply for them. There are many grant sources found outside (e.g., NSF) or inside the university (e.g., College of Sciences and Mathematics).

Scholarships

Information on scholarships can also be found in the WCU Graduate Catalog (page 22 in the hard copy version or online at: <https://catalog.wcupa.edu/general-information/tuition-fees-financial-aid/graduate-assistantships/>) under the Graduate Scholarships and Awards heading and on the Graduate School website for scholarships at:

https://www.wcupa.edu/_services/FIN_AID/scholarships.aspx.