

# Research Assistants

## Program for Allocation of Work Study Research Assistants

The Silver School of Social Work Office for Research (OFR) has a program to provide work study research assistants to support faculty in their research efforts for unfunded research that facilitates the development of a faculty member's research program and that will assist faculty in securing resources for advancing that program. These funds are subject to the availability of work study positions to the school, which fluctuate from year to year. (The SSSW seed money program can be used for requests for assistantship funding independent of the work study program).

Applications for an assistant will be considered once a year for the academic year and once a year for Summer assistantships. The date of application submission is May 1 of each year, with a start date of June 1 for Summer Assistants (June-Sept.) and September 1 for academic year assistants. Requests can be made for either a 10 hour or 20 hour per week assistantship.

There are two tracks within which a proposal can be submitted, with the choice of a track determined by the applicant. Track A mirrors the traditional research emphasis of the National Institute of Health and the National Science Foundation in which the primary aim of the project is to advance scientific knowledge about an important area of inquiry. Track B is more applied in character and focuses not so much on the project's contribution to scientific knowledge but rather to the acquisition of knowledge that has direct practical implications for social work, broadly defined. The spirit of Track B is the research model of private foundations, such as the Russell Sage Foundation, the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, and the Gates Foundation. Of course, applications can bridge the two tracks.

The criteria on which the proposal will be judged include the significance of the project, innovation of the project, and approach (i.e., methods and design), as well as the seniority of the applicant, with junior faculty generally given preference to senior faculty. Senior faculty are encouraged to apply if the research proposes a new area of research for them.

The number of assistantships awarded in a given year is dependent on the budgetary constraints of the SSSW.

Applications should include

1. The name and rank of the applicant
2. The number of assistants (typically 1) and the number of desired weekly hours of commitment, with a brief justification
3. A project title
4. A short abstract (about 300 words) summarizing the project
5. In a total of about 2-5 pages, a description of
  - a. The aims of the project
  - b. The track(s) one wants to be considered for
  - c. The significance of the project
  - d. The innovations in the project
  - e. The approach (methods) of the project
  - f. Outcomes that the project will achieve by the end of the student work period.

Submit applications to [silver.ofr@nyu.edu](mailto:silver.ofr@nyu.edu)