**SARA ASHWORTH GRADUATE STUDENT**

**ASSISTANTSHIP-SCHOLARSHIP**

**AWARD (SITL SA GSA-S)**

**GENERAL INFORMATION for APPLICANTS**

**INTRODUCTION**

The Spectrum Institute for Teaching and Learning (SITL) is introducing a new global initiative with the main purpose of generating research and teaching specific to the Spectrum of Teaching Styles, the *SITL Sara Ashworth Graduate Student Assistantship-Scholarship* awards(Sara Ashworth GSA-S). Each Sara Ashworth GSA-S award will cover the costs associated with completing a graduate degree at the master’s or doctoral level. Over time, this initiative will increase the number of new faculty trained to conduct Spectrum research and embed the instructional framework within undergraduate and graduate coursework. The new faculty, in turn, will recruit their own graduate students in the programs of their universities to study the Spectrum which will further generate Spectrum research and teaching (i.e., the development of a perpetual cycle). A student who is awarded a Sara Ashworth GSA-S can be expected to work between 15-20 hours in their academic advisor’s department in activities related to research and/or teaching.

**GENERAL ASSISTANTSHIP-SCHOLARSHIP INFORMATION**

**Recipients of an Assistantship-Scholarship**

The Sara Ashworth GSA-S awards are for students pursuing a doctoral degree or a master’s degree.

**Length of an Assistantship-Scholarship**

At the doctoral level, Sara Ashworth GSA-S award recipients will be funded for up to four (4) consecutive years, while at the master’s level for up to two (2) consecutive years.

**Amount of Funding**

The amount of funding allocated to a Sara Ashworth GSA-S award is based on the costs associated with a student completing a master’s or doctoral level program at the given recipient’s university. The annual amount will differ from one university to another and one country to another. The amount of each assistantship-scholarship award will be determined through a review of the documentation provided by the appropriate university office, which is information that the academic advisor submits as part of the application packet materials. Information provided in Table 1 serves to guide an academic advisor in determining the amount of an assistantship-scholarship in the academic advisor’s country (see page 6 of this document).

**Fundable Items for an Assistantship-Scholarship**

A Sara Ashworth GSA-S can be used to fund the following items/benefits:

1. stipend (for student living expenses);

2. tuition/etc. (tuition, university fees, and student health insurance);

3. fringe (university office fee to equal no more than 4% of the amount of the stipend);

4. escalation (annual 4% increase in stipend and tuition/etc.); and

5. costs associated with the student’s Spectrum-related research (e.g., study-related materials and equipment; presenting at national/international conferences; publishing research; etc.; maximum $2,000 annually).

Information provided in Table 2 serves to guide an academic advisor in determining the amount of funding allocated to the different fundable items for an assistantship-scholarship award (see page 7 of this document).

**ACADEMIC ADVISOR INFORMATION**

The academic advisor of a potential recipient of a Sara Ashworth GSA-S award must complete the *Application Packet* (available on Spectrum of Teaching Styles website). If awarded an assistantship-scholarship for a graduate student, the academic advisor would then complete the *Graduate Student Information Form* in conjunction with the named graduate student (available on Spectrum of Teaching Styles website).

**Eligibility Requirements to Serve as an Academic Advisor**

To be eligible to serve as an academic advisor for a Sara Ashworth GSA-S recipient, the academic advisor must meet the following seven (7) requirements:

1. be a current full time university faculty member;

2. have completed a doctoral degree;

3. have published Spectrum-related research-based studies or theoretical/conceptual papers in peer reviewed journals in the past five years, one of which must have been published in a journal found within Scopus, Web of Science, EBSCO, PsycInfo, or Medline;

4. have presented Spectrum-related scholarly papers at national and/or international conferences in the past five years;

5. have taught the Spectrum of Teaching Styles to university students in one or more courses in the past five years;

6. have completed other applied/practical activities specific to the Spectrum (e.g., published a Spectrum-related applied/practical article in a journal found outside of Scopus, Web of Science, EBSCO, PsycInfo, or Medline; received a SITL Research Grant; delivered a Spectrum-related workshop/presentation to teachers/coaches; taught/coached children/youth “Spectrum style;” other?)

7. have graduated a minimum of one master’s or doctoral level student in the past five years.

**Granting of an Assistantship-Scholarship Award – A Competitive Process**

Up to five (5) Sara Ashworth GSA-S will be awarded to graduate students starting their program of studies during the 2026 calendar year. In addition to meeting the eligibility requirements for serving as an academic advisor of a Sara Ashworth GSA-S recipient, criteria used to grant the awards include the (1) quality of the academic advisor’s Spectrum scholarly work and experiences, and (2) global distribution of the awards (i.e., SITL takes into consideration the distribution of the awards across different continents/countries). The awarding of each Sara Ashworth GSA-S is a competitive process.

**Stipend for an Academic Advisor**

The academic advisor of a doctoral level Sara Ashworth GSA-S recipient will receive a stipend each year for up to four (4) years. The academic advisor of a master’s level Sara Ashworth GSA-S recipient will receive a stipend each year for up to two (2) years. The amount will be $1,000 per year for an academic advisor residing in an undeveloped country, $1,500 in a developing country, and $2,000 in a developed country (see Table 1, page 6 of this document).

**Number of Assistantship-Scholarship Recipients at Any Given Time**

An academic advisor may have a maximum of one (1) graduate student on a Sara Ashworth GSA-S award at any given time. A university may have a maximum of one (1) graduate student on Sara Ashworth GSA-S award at any given time. Once an assistantship-scholarship recipient has graduated and all student outcomes successfully achieved, an academic advisor may make application for a Sara Ashworth GSA-S award for a new student.

**Annual Report**

The academic advisor is responsible for submitting a report annually reflecting the progress of the graduate student specific to the identified student outcomes (see Student Recipient Information). Evidence reflecting the student’s progress must be included (i.e., transcript for coursework completed, letter(s) of acceptance/pictures/videos for presentation(s), letter(s) of acceptance for publication(s), or document(s) produced by the student specific to the independent study outcome). In addition, a table or chart outlining the funding expenditures for that year must be included. The annual report must be submitted to the SITL board within two weeks of the end of each year of study.

**STUDENT RECIPIENT INFORMATION**

**Required Outcomes for an Assistantship-Scholarship Recipient**

At the doctoral level, a Sara Ashworth GSA-S recipient must achieve the following five (5) Spectrum-related outcomes:

1. present at least three (3) studies at national/international conferences over the 4-year degree program (evidenced by conference acceptance letters and pictures and/or videos of presentations);

2. publish at least two (2) Spectrum-related studies written in English in journals found within one of the following databases: Scopus, Web of Science, EBSCO, PsycInfo, or Medline (evidenced by journal acceptance letters and digital object identifier [DOI] once published); one (1) of the two publications must be derived from dissertation research; the two manuscripts must be accepted for publication within one year of the end of the student’s 4-year doctoral degree program;

3. present one (1) Spectrum-related study as part of the SITL Annual Workshop Series;

4. complete a Spectrum-related course (undergraduate or graduate level) or complete the Spectrum of Teaching Styles Educational Curriculum (13 modules; MOOC) offered by the SITL; this must be completed within the first two years of the student’s doctoral degree program (evidenced by the student’s university transcript or certificate provided by the SITL); and

5. complete an independent study in which the recipient reviews the Spectrum literature and develops a plan for a Spectrum-related study; this requirement must be completed during the student’s second or third year in the program; an independent study can be delivered as a course, research project, or be the research proposal/doctoral plan that the student develops and submits to their dissertation committee (evidenced by the document produced and a letter from the academic advisor verifying that the student completed this outcome).

At the master’s level, a Sara Ashworth GSA-S recipient must achieve the following three (3) Spectrum-related outcomes:

1. present at least one (1) study at a national/international conference over the 2-year degree program (evidenced by conference acceptance letters and pictures and/or videos of presentations);

2. publish one (1) Spectrum-related study derived from the student’s thesis, written in English or the student’s native language in a refereed (peer reviewed) journal (evidenced by journal acceptance letter and digital object identifier [DOI] once published); the study must be accepted for publication within one year of the end of the student’s 2-year master’s degree program; and

3. complete a Spectrum-related course (undergraduate or graduate level) or complete the Spectrum of Teaching Styles Educational Curriculum (13 modules; MOOC) offered by the SITL; this must be completed within the student’s first year of the master’s degree program (evidenced by the student’s university transcript or certificate provided by the SITL).

**STEPS IN APPLICATION PROCESS**

Step 1

The academic advisorof an assistantship-scholarship recipient must complete and submit the *Application Packet*. The deadline for submissions will be June 30, 6:00 PM Eastern Time, annually. For assistantship-scholarships awarded with a start date of 2026 (calendar year), the *Application Packet* must be submitted to the SITL by June 30, 2025, 6:00 PM Eastern Time.

Step 2

*Application Packets* received will first be evaluated by the SITL to determine if eligibility requirements to serve as an academic advisor have been met. *Application Packets* deemed eligible will then be evaluated for quality of the academic advisor’s Spectrum scholarship and experiences. Application packets selected to be funded will then be determined. This step will be completed by July 30, annually.

Step 3

A letter indicating whether an assistantship-scholarship has been awarded or not awarded will be forwarded to the academic advisor of each application packet evaluated. Application packets not awarded will include feedback regarding our decision. This step will be completed by August 5, annually.

Step 4

For application packets selected to be awarded, the academic advisor in conjunction with the graduate student recipient must complete the *Graduate Student Information Form*. This form must be submitted to the SITL no later than three months prior to the graduate student recipient beginning a program of study within the given year for which it is awarded. The reason for this time allowance is to allow the academic advisor time to recruit a graduate student for the awarded assistantship-scholarship, if not already recruited.

Step 5

A Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the SITL and academic advisor’s university will be written and signed as soon as the *Graduate Student Information Form* has been received. Once the MOU has been finalized, funds will be dispersed for the first year, and thereafter for each subsequent year of study.

**OTHER ASSISTANTSHIP-SCHOLARSHIP INFORMATION**

**Distribution of Funds**

Funding for the first year will be distributed to the host university (department and faculty member specified) within two weeks of the start of the academic year. This same pattern of funding will occur for the subsequent years of funding.

**Interruption of Program of Study**

If a student must interrupt her or his program of study (i.e., stop for a semester or year) for a legitimate reason (e.g., illness, maternity or paternity leave due to childbirth, etc.), the scholarship-assistantship may be extended for one year. Each case will be reviewed by the SITL board.

**Applying for Other SITL Funds as an Assistantship-Scholarship Recipient**

The student recipient of a Sara Ashworth GSA-S may not simultaneously receive any funding from any other SITL grant programs (Research Grant Proposal Program, Mini-grant for Presenting at an International Conference, and Mini-grant for Producing an Exemplary Videotaped Spectrum Episode). The academic advisor of a Sara Ashworth GSA-S student recipient may apply for funding through the other SITL grant funded programs (those listed in the previous statement) while serving as an academic advisor for a doctoral or master’s level student.

**Educational Agreement**

An educational agreement (MOU) between the SITL and the appropriate office of the academic advisor’s university that outlines the terms of the Sara Ashworth GSA-S award will be completed and signed by both parties prior to any funds being submitted to the university identified in the MOU.

**Recognition of SITL on Publications/Presentations**

All outcomes (publications and presentations) that result from the funding of a Sara Ashworth GSA-S award must include the following acknowledgement/recognition statement or a similar statement: “This work was supported by funds received from the Spectrum Institute for Teaching and Learning, Sara Ashworth Graduate Student Assistantship-Scholarship Award program.”

Table 1. Range for approximate annual cost (USD) of a Sara Ashworth GSA-S award in developed, developing, and least developed countries.

Country Categories Doctoral Degree Master’s Degree Academic Advisor

Developed $25,000-40,000 $15,000-30,000 $2,000

Developing $15,000-25,000 $10,000-15,000 $1,500

Least Developed $10,000-15,000 $5,000-10,000 $1,000

Table 2. Example budget (USD) of a Sara Ashworth GSA-S award in the U.S.

**Doctoral Level**

***Expenses*** ***Year 1***

Stipend $21,762.00 USD

Fringe $870.48

Tuition/etc. $11,955.00

Spectrum Research $2,000.00

TOTAL $36,587.48

***Expenses******Year 2 Year 3 Year 4***

Stipend + Escalation $22,632.48 $23,537.78 $24,479.29

Fringe $905.30 $941.51 $979.17

Tuition/etc. + Escalation $12,433.20 $12,930.53 $13,447.75

Spectrum Research $2,000.00 $2000.00 $2,000.00

TOTAL $37,970.98 $39,409.82 $40,906.21

**Master’s Level**

***Expenses*** ***Year 1***

Stipend $15,642.00

Fringe $625.68

Tuition/etc. $11,955.00

Spectrum Research $2,000.00

TOTAL $30,222.68

***Expenses******Year 2***

Stipend + Escalation $16,267.68

Fringe $650.71

Tuition/etc. + Escalation $12,433.20

Spectrum Research $2,000.00

TOTAL $31,351.59

Legend

Stipend: Student salary for living expenses

Fringe: University office fee equal to 4% of stipend

Escalation: Annual 4% increase in stipend and tuition/etc.

Tuition/etc.: Tuition, fees, and student health insurance

Spectrum Research: Funds available for Spectrum-related research

Documentation

These costs are based on those provided by the University of Wyoming, Graduate Education Office (<https://www.uwyo.edu/uwgrad/enrolled-students/financial-assistance/assistantship-funding.html>).