



Application for the Receipt of GRA Funds *in lieu* of GTA Funds During Extended Absences for PhD Fieldwork Department of Anthropology

Some anthropological dissertation projects require doctoral students to be away from the university for extended periods of time, making it impossible for them to undertake the duties of a GTA. One accepted use of GRA (Graduate Research Assistant) funds is to allow students to progress with their own thesis research, in lieu of working and being paid as a teaching assistant. Where a student's thesis research requires an extended absence, the department permits PhD students to apply for a modification of their funding package to receive GRA funds *in lieu* of GTA funds to make up the university's minimum PhD funding guarantee.

GRA and GTA funding are processed differently by the university, and you should be aware of these differences before deciding to apply for one or two terms of GRA funding.

Graduate Teaching Assistant (GTA)	Graduate Research Assistant (GRA)
Employment conditions are governed by the GTA Collective Agreement.	Funding is provided to help the student progress with his or her own research.
Paid as salary on a monthly basis.	Paid as scholarship on a monthly basis.
Salary is taxable and reported on a T4 tax receipt	Scholarship is taxable as a 'research grant,' and is reported on a T4A tax receipt. Recipients may claim up to \$3000 in research expenses on their tax returns for the calendar year in which the GRA is held.
Salary is supplemented with 4% vacation pay and an additional payment under the Collective Agreement.	No vacation pay or additional payment (what used to be called the 'GTA one-time payment').
Some health benefits may be claimed as per the GTA Collective Agreement.	No health benefits are linked to GRA funding.

Application for this modification of the basic funding package must include this form and the documents listed below. Please note that just as students with major external scholarships are only eligible for one term of GTA funding, so too students in those circumstances are eligible for one term only of GRA funding. All applications need to be submitted for approval by the Anthropology Graduate Chair.

Student Name: _____ Email: _____

Supervisor: _____

Term(s) abroad: _____

Field Site: _____

Please attach to this form:

- 1) a letter of support from the dissertation advisor
- 2) a 250-word rationale for the location and timing of the field work
- 3) a copy of the dissertation proposal (prior to start of GRA term)
- 4) if relevant, a copy of the **REB** approval (prior to start of GRA term)
- 5) a completed copy of the Acknowledgement and Assumption of Risk form

Please submit applications to the Graduate Program Assistant by May 1st of the relevant year.

Student Signature: _____ Date: _____

Grad Chair Approval: _____ Date: _____

Comments: _____