

Guidelines for the ISE Early PhD Student Award (EPSA)

Definition

- The awards are open to all admitted PhD students on a first come, first serve basis.
- Five awards are remain for new students matriculating in the fall 2018 semester.
- The EPSA will cover the student's stipend, fringe and tuition costs for 2 years, conditionally (see "Eligibility" below)
- EPSA students will receive a starting stipend of up to \$29K by taking advantage of a "top-up" funding opportunity initiated by the Provost's office for new incoming TAs (this top-up opportunity applies to all first year PhD students with an RA/TA appointment and is not exclusive to the EPSA).
- EPSA students will be appointed as a 0.50 FTE RA/TA. Advisors may request their students as TAs for their courses; however, final TA assignments will be made by the Department.
- EPSAs will not be given to students who have received a GSPA.

Eligibility

- Students must be first-year PhD students in ISE and must meet the UF oral proficiency requirements (<https://ase.ufl.edu/ASESpeakPrep.html>) to serve as a TA.
- In order to maintain eligibility for EPSA funding in subsequent semesters, the advising faculty member is required to submit at least one research proposal to an external sponsor during the academic term in which the student is supported. Over any two-term period of EPSA support, at least one of the external proposals must be to a federal sponsor. Each proposal must include a budget request of at least \$80k in total direct costs, including support for a full-time student in each year of the budget proposal.
- EPSA students who receive external funding support through any successful proposals may be allowed to defer unused EPSA funding to bridge the student's support after the conclusion of the sponsored award. Deferrals will be determined on a case-by-case basis by the Department; stipend coverage for deferred EPSAs will remain locked at \$25K (base) or \$29K, depending upon whether a "top-up" has been provided.
- In the event that the EPSA proposal submission requirement cannot be (or is not) addressed in any given semester, a proposal submission may be deferred by one subsequent semester with Department approval. In the event that the proposal requirement is not met in two consecutive semesters, any remaining EPSA support will be suspended. The faculty advisor will be responsible for providing student support through other sources including external/internal grants or discretionary funds. If student support cannot be (or is not) arranged from other sources than the EPSA, Department discretionary funds will be used to support the student for a fixed period. In this case, the advising faculty member will be required to address an additional teaching assignment (beyond nominal load) in a subsequent semester.