Graduate Student Summer Associate Program

About the Program

The RAND Graduate Student Summer Associate Program introduces outstanding graduate students to the RAND Corporation, an institution that conducts research on a wide range of national security problems and domestic and international social policy issues. Summer associates typically work at RAND for a 12-week period. Students receive a stipend and are given the opportunity to conduct research that can be completed during the three months they are at RAND.

About RAND

The RAND Corporation is a nonprofit research organization providing objective analysis and effective solutions that address the challenges facing the public and private sectors around the world. As such, it provides a distinctive environment for graduate students. RAND's primary activity is research. The environment provides a rich variety of ongoing studies and an experienced staff of professional researchers with whom associates interact. RAND projects are typically interdisciplinary. Some research projects bring together economists, psychologists, statisticians, and health professionals, for example, whereas others bring together engineers, operations researchers, and students of organizational behavior.

Structure of the Associate Program

Associates have full access to RAND's research facilities. These include state-of-the-art computer hardware and software; a nationally acclaimed library; an extensive data facility that obtains and maintains research databases; and special consulting and training services in computing, statistical analysis, and oral presentations.

Each summer associate is assigned to a research project and is mentored by a senior research staff member. An associate is matched with a project and a mentor based on the needs of the research team and the educational background, skills, and experiences of the summer associate. A typical summer research project is part of a larger, ongoing research program where the end product is generally specified by the mentor but the associate may design and execute the research approach for a piece of the research.

While in residence at RAND for the 12 weeks, associates work with their project teams, attend seminars and functions that are open to all RAND staff, and meet with other RAND researchers. Each student is required to present a seminar at the conclusion of the associateship.

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OBJECTIVE ANALYSIS.
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Photos by Diane Baldwin

Eligibility

The program is designed for full-time students who have completed at least two years of graduate work leading to a doctorate or professional degree (e.g., a law or medical degree or professional engineer certificate) and will not graduate prior to the summer of employment. Approximately 25 students in a wide range of academic disciplines participate in the program each year. U.S. citizenship is not necessary except for positions that require a U.S. government security clearance. For employment in connection with certain projects where access to information is restricted by government regulations, U.S. citizenship or permanent resident status is required. Projects in national security and homeland defense research generally have these restrictions.

Most of RAND's professional hiring is at the Ph.D. level, so we orient our summer program toward individuals who are generally within a year or two of completing their doctorates. However, sometimes there are projects that match with the skills of graduate students in other stages of their education who also have significant work experience.

The following are not eligible: undergraduates; students graduating prior to the summer of employment; and postdoctoral fellows. In addition, the program typically does not consider master's degree students without significant work or research experience.

Applications

During the first week of October, we begin we begin accepting applications for the program. Students wishing to apply for the program should submit their application materials no later than the first week of January. In October, we will begin our recruiting by holding information sessions at select colleges and universities. Our college recruiting schedule can be found at http://www.rand.org/jobs/recruiting.html.

An application to our program consists of a current curriculum vita and a detailed cover letter. The cover letter should discuss in detail your research interests and how these interests fit with RAND's core research agenda. The letter needs also to include a list of three academic references (name/email).

RAND accepts applications only through our Web site at http://www.rand.org/jobs. Click **Find a Job**, click **Advanced Search**, select **Research-Summer Associate Prog** under **Job Families**, and click the "Search" button. Click on the position and click the "Apply Now" button. Follow the prompts for application submission.

Note: For the **Find a Job** link to work properly, JavaScript must be enabled, and pop-up protectors and spam filters must be turned off.

If you have problems or do not receive a confirmation of your application, please email jobs@rand.org and indicate your computer platform and browser version.

Additional Information

For additional details about the program, visit **www.rand.org/about/edu_op/fellowships/gsap**

If you have additional questions about the program, please contact **Summer_Director@rand.org**

For information about RAND research, visit **www.rand.org**.

RAND is an Equal Opportunity/Affirmative Action Employer.

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