

GRADUATE ASSISTANTSHIP (GA) APPLICATION

Master of Fine Arts in Creative Writing

The Department of English is pleased to offer Graduate Assistantships for students in the MFA in Creative Writing Programs. The award of an assistantship includes tuition and a stipend for the 9-month academic year (late August to mid May) and may be renewed for all three years of the MFA program. Stipend amounts may vary but typically they are in the amount of \$11,500. In some cases, select incoming students may be selected for a 12-month \$22,000 stipend.

GAs perform a variety of duties in the department. Assignments include tutoring students in the department's writing or computer centers, teaching composition and rhetoric, undergraduate creative writing courses, and assisting faculty members in their teaching, research or administrative work.

Assistantships are awarded competitively on the basis of the applicant's academic record, professional promise, training, and experience. To be eligible for an assistantship, applications for graduate admission and university financial aid (including the FAFSA form) must be on file for each applicant. To receive an assistantship, students must be admitted to one of the graduate programs, either full or provisional admission.

Assistantship applicants should request that at least two of their references specifically address the applicant's qualifications for an assistantship, as well as the applicant's promise as a graduate student. If assistantship applicants wish to submit reference letters in addition to the three required for the admission application, such as letters from previous teaching supervisors or letters which otherwise specifically support the assistantship application, they are free to do so. Previous teaching experience is not a requirement.

All assistantship applicants must submit the following materials:

1. A completed Graduate Assistantship application form;
2. An undergraduate, graduate or professional paper, or other piece of expository prose of at least five pages;
3. A brief personal essay (2-3 pages) in which you discuss your relevant teaching experience, educational background and your particular interest in a graduate degree, suggesting where your education seems to be leading.

GTA applications and all supporting materials should be sent to the attention of the Graduate Programs Advisor, VCU Department of English, at the address below by **JANUARY 15**.

**Graduate Programs Advisor
VCU Department of English
PO Box 842005
Richmond, VA 23284-2005**

APPLICATION FOR GRADUATE ASSISTANTSHIP

PART ONE

**Department of English
Virginia Commonwealth University**

PERSONAL INFORMATION

Name: _____

Mailing Address: _____

Local Address: _____

Telephone: **Home:** _____ **Work:** _____

Program to which you are applying: _____ MFA/genre

UNDERGRADUATE EDUCATION

Institution: _____

Degree: _____ **Date:** _____ **Major:** _____

GPA: **Overall:** _____ **Major:** _____

Honors/Awards: _____

GRADUATE EDUCATION

Institution: _____

Degree: _____ **Date:** _____ **Major:** _____

GPA: **Overall:** _____ **Major:** _____

Honors/Awards: _____

GRE SCORES (optional)

Date Taken: _____

Verbal: _____/_____% **Quant.:** _____/_____%

Analy.: _____/_____% **Lit:** _____/_____%

PART TWO

Briefly list any/all creative writing workshops you've participated in the past 5 years, along with a paragraph long assessment of the not only what you feel you obtained from the workshop experience but also what/how you contributed to it.



PART THREE

TITLE OF SUBMITTED WRITING SAMPLE

(GTA applicants *must* submit an expository writing sample of at least five pages.)

Hard copies of writing samples should accompany this application. Samples should also be emailed to the Graduate Programs Advisor at tndidato@vcu.edu

PART FOUR

Please write and attach a single brief essay (2-3 pages) in which you discuss some or all of the following:

- 1) your teaching experience (consider previous graduate assistantships, public and private school, college and university, community programs);
 - 2) your educational background and your particular interest in a graduate degree, suggesting where your education seems to be leading;
 - 3) why working in the Writing Center, faculty research, or teaching in the classroom attracts you, and what qualifications you might have for such assignments.
-

*** Please make sure that two or more of the references in your application for admission address your suitability for an assistantship. Any additional letters (optional) in support of your application for an assistantship should be sent directly to the Graduate Programs Advisor.**

**Graduate Programs Advisor
VCU Department of English
PO Box 842005
Richmond, VA 23284-2005
Email: tndidato@vcu.edu**