HOW TO FIND A GSR POSITION

Students wishing to engage in research as part of their education need to secure a position in a lab in the area where they are interested in doing research. Securing a GSR position can come about in many ways:

- Some applicants contact Principle Investigators (PI) during the application period who become interested in the applicant and report to the Admissions Office to review the file and admit the applicant to the program and to the PI’s lab.
- Some PIs are not contacted by any applicants but report to the Admissions Office to review files of applicants who have indicated them as a Preferred Advisor in the application for by reviewing all the files in their area of interest.
- Many GSR positions are secured after the admissions offer is made. These GSR positions come to fruition in the fashion which is currently happening at this moment, i.e., admitted applicants continue to contact PIs after they have been admitted to secure a lab position. In many instances, this approach to securing a lab position continues even after the prospective student has registered and enrolled in the first quarter in residence and thereafter.
- Some PI’s prefer to solicit GSR positions to students who have taken their course and have achieved well.
- Although not recommended, occasionally, a student will secure a lab position after 2 to 3 years of being in the program.
- A student may enter a lab unfunded because the PI research grant has exhausted and that student could secure funding in the future. This way, the student can get started on the research required for writing the thesis or dissertation.