The Center for Nondestructive Evaluation (CNDE) at Iowa State University (ISU) announces the availability of two CNDE Graduate Research Assistantship (GRA) appointments, in support of outstanding graduate students in pursuit of doctoral degrees in one of the nondestructive evaluation (NDE) technical areas affiliated with CNDE. The CNDE-GRA appointment provides up to three years of support (stipend, fringe benefits, tuition and additional supplementary funds) for prospective graduate students with the desire and commitment to engage in state-of-the-art research in NDE and have prior demonstrated academic achievements in science and engineering fields relevant to NDE disciplines.

**CNDE-GRA Benefits**

- Up to three years (consecutive academic semesters and the related summer sessions) of financial support*
- Annual starting stipend of $26,400 plus fringe benefits**
- Full tuition coverage
- Supplemental funds of up to $2,500 per year for educational needs, which may include: cost of books, travel to conferences/symposia, workshop fees, etc. - 100% must be spent on the student and not on the faculty advisor - cannot be spent towards: purchasing a piece of equipment or payment of graduate fees.
- Eligibility for internal CNDE Graduate Fellowships (R.B. Thompson and O.D. and O.U. Trapp Graduate Fellowships – [https://www.cnde.iastate.edu/scholarships/](https://www.cnde.iastate.edu/scholarships/))

**Eligibility**

- Must be admitted to the Ph.D. program in one of the ISU departments with direct relevance to the NDE research areas at CNDE.
- Demonstrated academic excellence through: publication record in high-quality (degree-relevant) peer-reviewed archival journals and conferences/symposia; academic awards; notable and relevant extra-curricular activities; etc.
- The annual re-appointment of the CNDE-GRA is strictly contingent upon sustained satisfactory academic progress and delivery of expected outcomes (e.g., submitted or published peer-reviewed journal papers, peer-reviewed conference proceedings, etc.) The CNDE-GRA appointment will be terminated (at any time) as a result of unsatisfactory academic and research progress.
- Each applicant must identify an NDE-focused (graduate) faculty member, in his/her department of choosing, who has agreed and is committed to be the applicant’s official Ph.D. advisor for the duration of the CNDE-GRA appointment.

**Required Documents & Statements**

CNDE-GRA applicants must submit:

- An unofficial transcript of the B.S. or M.S. academic program from which to enter the Ph.D. program. If the applicant is currently enrolled in a Ph.D. program, the current unofficial transcript must be submitted.
- A current and complete CV.
- A Personal, Relevant Background and Future Academic/Professional Aspiration Statement (no more than 1 page).

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* Subject to availability of funds.
** Currently at 8.5% of stipend.
A statement of commitment from the Ph.D. advisor.

A Graduate Research Plan Synopsis (no more than 2 pages), jointly prepared with the applicant’s academic advisor. The Plan must be inclusive of the research topic, its direct relevance and importance to the field of NDE, a three-year outlook and anticipated outcomes. The Plan will play a significant factor in selecting the final CNDE-GRA recipients.

The page limits are inclusive of all requisite materials. Use 12-point Times New Roman font, single-space, 8.5” x 11” paper with 1” margins all around.

Deviations from these required criteria will automatically disqualify the application.

Letters of Reference
Applicants must provide a minimum of three and a maximum of five names (previous academic advisors, relevant academic professors, supervisors, etc.) who may be contacted later to provide reference letters. The following information must be provided:

- Name
- Organizational Affiliation
- Email Address
- Phone number

Additional Requirements
The recipient CNDE-GRA must:

- Be a U.S. citizen or a U.S. permanent resident.
- Submit a semi-annual progress report (2-3 pages), coinciding with the Spring and Fall (April and October) Industrial Advisory Board (IAB) meetings of CNDE.
- Deliver a presentation (or poster) directly related to research activities and progress at the two IAB meetings. Submission and presentation details will be provided ahead of the meetings.
- Attend an approved NDE-focused conference/symposia/workshop at least once in each year of the CNDE-GRA – a) to participate and b) to present research outcomes (at minimum starting in the second year of eligibility).

Application Deadline:
Currently, applications are being accepted for appointments starting in Fall 2022 or Spring 2023 semesters and until the positions are filled. At the time of applying for this CNDE-GRA, candidates must have been admitted to an Iowa State University (ISU) Academic Department with direct relevance to the NDE research areas at CNDE. Admission to a department does not automatically qualify a candidate for the CNDE-GRA appointment.

Application Submission Instructions
Applications should be prepared in a single PDF file, containing the items in the Required Documents & Statements (in the order shown), and e-mailed to (cnde@cnde.iastate.edu). The PDF document name should follow the following format: first name last name CNDE-GRA Application Semester Year. For example: John Smith CNDE-GRA Application Fall 2022.

Application Review Process
CNDE-GRA applications will be reviewed by a team of area experts, faculty members and technical staff at CNDE for making the final award selections.

Questions regarding the CNDE-GRA should be directed to (cnde@cnde.iastate.edu).