

CNDE Graduate Research Assistantship (CNDE-GRA)

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/>)*

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).

* 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).