[DATE]

[EMPLOYEE LEGAL NAME]

[WORK ADDRESS]

[WORK ADDRESS LINE 2]

[CITY, STATE ZIP]

EIN: 396006492

***Optional: Add EMPL ID here or at end of letter***

This letter was delivered electronically to the recipient at: [email address].

Dear [EMPLOYEE NAME]:

I am pleased to [OFFER YOU] a [PERCENT]%-time Research Assistantship (RA)] to support the pursuit of your dissertation or degree research in [OPERATIONAL AREA] with [DEPARTMENT NAME].

This commitment to financially support your doctoral studies in [DEGREE STUDY] will provide support for five years, contingent on satisfactory academic progress and availability of [three years if entering already holding an MS degree] of funds.

**Appointment Details**:

* [MENTOR NAME] will serve as your mentor in [OPERATIONAL AREA], [DEPARTMENT NAME]
* Your stipend will be [$STIPEND AMOUNT] for the period [START DATE] through [END DATE]
* Work with your mentor to determine your work schedule
* Health insurance [included/not included]
* Tuition Remission [included/not included]
* Eligible for Sick Leave

**Before or shortly after you begin your appointment, you must:**

* Complete Section 1 of Form I-9 [if required]
* Complete Section 2 of Form I-9 (see I-9 Contact Name) using acceptable documents **within 3 days of staring work**
* Complete Criminal Background Check (CBC) [if required]
* Tell us if you have an existing appointment

**During your appointment, you must:**

* Complete payroll forms (see payroll coordinator name) **within 1 week of starting work**
* Maintain enrollment and satisfactory academic progress toward your degree
  + 8-15 graded credits taken at 300 level or above, including research or thesis credits for non-dissertators (3 credits for dissertators)
  + At least 2 graduate credits during the general 8-week summer session (3 credits for dissertators)
* Complete Cybersecurity Awareness Training

**Employment Eligibility and Verification**

**Form 1-9**

You must verify your identity and work eligibility by completing Form I-9. Section 1 of the form must be completed online **on or before your first day of work**. Then, you must complete Section 2 of Form I-9 (see I-9 Contact Name) using acceptable documents **within 3 days of staring work**. For information on the Form I-9 and the list of acceptable documents, please see [the Forms section of the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Service website](http://www.uscis.gov/portal/site/uscis).

**Criminal Background Check**

CBC may not be required, but for positions requiring a CBC:

Include if conducting a CBC, but it has not been completed yet:

This offer of assistantship depends on the results of a criminal background check. If the results are unacceptable, the offer will be withdrawn, or your existing appointment will be terminated.

Include if CBC is required because they’re in a position of trust:

Your position is considered a position of trust, which means you must complete a criminal background check (CBC) [**every four years** on all current employees and volunteers who hold a position of trust to include an Authorized Adult per [UW 1045: Youth Protection policy](https://policy.wisc.edu/library/UW-1045)] or [**every two years** on all current employees and volunteers working with minors as an Authorized Custodian or an Authorized Assistant Custodian per [UW-1045: Youth Protection policy](https://policy.wisc.edu/library/UW-1045)].

If you are in a position of trust and have access to vulnerable populations, you must **report any criminal arrest, charge, or conviction** (except minor traffic tickets that are only punishable by a fine) to your division’s Background Check Coordinator [CBC Coordinator’s Name] within **24 hours** or as soon as possible. Failing to report this information violates university policy and may lead to disciplinary action, including dismissal. These rules are in place to help keep our campus community safe for everyone.

**Export Control**

Please note: If you are applying for J-1 immigration status through the University, you may need to go through additional screening to ensure compliance with the federal export control regulations. If you have questions about export control regulations, please contact the [University’s Export Control Office](http://research.wisc.edu/integrity-and-other-requirements/export-control/).

**Payroll**

**Payroll Information:**

You will be paid every two weeks, on Thursdays. Information about your pay schedule, health insurance premium deductions, and taxes is available on the [Payroll Services website](https://hr.wisc.edu/pay/).

**Benefits**

**Tuition\*:**

[Select one]:

You [WILL or WILL NOT] receive remission of your [NONRESIDENT OR RESIDENT] tuition. The tuition remission **does not cover** any special course or segregated fees, which will be your responsibility each term. The Board of Regents determines tuition and fees. For more information, please see the [Bursar’s Office website](https://businessservices.wisc.edu/making-payments/payments-to-students/tuition-remission/).

*\*Students enrolled in a tuition non-pooled (131) program are not eligible for tuition remission. If you are unsure whether the student is in a non-pooled (131) program, you may refer* [*here*](https://tableau.wisconsin.edu/#/views/CurrentStudentsinNon-PooledTuitionPrograms_16342164058570/StudentsinNon-PooledTuitionPrograms?:iid=1) *for a list of all students in these programs.*

Include if eligible for remission:

To be eligible for tuition remission, you must hold a graduate assistant position (TA, PA, RA, or LSA) with at least 33% appointment for the semester. Tuition remission is based on your FTE and hire dates, and it covers the full semester if you meet the requirements. For more details, please visit the Bursar’s Office website and review the information on [TA, PA, RA, and LSA appointments](https://businessservices.wisc.edu/making-payments/payments-to-students/tuition-remission/eligibility-for-ra-ta-pa-and-lsa-tuition-remission/fy26-changes/).

If you have a spring appointment that qualifies for tuition remission, your eligibility for tuition remission will carry over to the Summer term. For specific information, see the Bursar’s Office website regarding [TA, PA, RA, LSA Appointments Summer Term](https://businessservices.wisc.edu/making-payments/payments-to-students/tuition-remission/eligibility-for-ra-ta-pa-and-lsa-tuition-remission/fy26-changes/).

**Health Insurance:**

Include if eligible for health insurance [Individuals are eligible for health insurance if the appointment is at least 33% for one semester]:

You may be eligible to participate in the Graduate Assistant Health Insurance program. It is important to meet all application deadlines. If you need health insurance and wish to enroll, please contact [DEPARTMENT CONTACT] in [DEPARTMENT] in [LOCATION] at [PHONE] or [EMAIL] or contact Madison Benefits Services at (608) 265-2257 or [benefits@ohr.wisc.edu](mailto:benefits@ohr.wisc.edu) **within the first 30 days of your employment**. Read more about New Employee Benefits for non-WRS employees on the [HR website](https://hr.wisc.edu/benefits/new-employee-benefits-enrollment/benefits-for-employees-not-covered-by-the-wrs/).

Include if not eligible for health insurance:

Based on this position, you are **not currently eligible** to participate in the Graduate Assistant Health Insurance program. However, if you previously had grad coverage or your job is extended, please contact [DEPARTMENT CONTACT] in [DEPARTMENT] in [LOCATION] at [PHONE] or [EMAIL] or contact Madison Benefits Services at (608) 265-2257 or [benefits@ohr.wisc.edu](mailto:benefits@ohr.wisc.edu) to determine if you are eligible **within the first 30 days of your employment**. Additional information is available on the [HR website](https://hr.wisc.edu/benefits/new-employee-benefits-enrollment/benefits-for-employees-not-covered-by-the-wrs/).

**Federal Affordable Care Act:**

The University of Wisconsin is required to provide all employees with a Notice of the availability of the Health Insurance Marketplace. The Notice also includes information on health insurance coverage available through your employment at the University of Wisconsin (UW). Beginning in 2014, the federal Affordable Care Act (ACA) requires most everyone to obtain health insurance for themselves and their dependents or pay a penalty when filing their tax returns. Please refer to the notification included at the end of this letter.

**Sick Leave:**

You will also earn sick leave. At the beginning of each appointment period, you will receive [SICK LEAVE HOURS] hours of sick leave. Sick leave must be used in **one-hour increments**. Unused sick leave will carry over to a new appointment period if it is within the same department. Any combination of sick leave carry over and newly accredited sick leave cannot exceed 96 hours. In the event of an unanticipated absence, you must contact me by phone or email before the start of your scheduled work shift. [EXPLAIN THE PROCESS FOR WHAT YOU WANT THE EMPLOYEE TO DO WHEN S/HE IS SICK]. Additional information regarding leave benefits is available in the [Graduate Assistantship Policies and Procedures](https://hr.wisc.edu/policies/gapp).

**Graduate Assistant Policies and Procedures**

Additional employment policies regarding your assistantship are outlined in the [Graduate Assistantship Policies and Procedures](https://hr.wisc.edu/policies/gapp). This letter highlights key aspects you need to know about your appointment.

**Enrollment and Academic Progress:**

You must be enrolled full-time each semester while holding this position. That means:

* **Non-dissertators** must be enrolled in 8 to 15 graduate credits
  + Must be numbered 300 or higher (this includes research or thesis credits)
  + Must be taken for a grade (not pass/fail or audit)
* **Dissertators** must be enrolled in 3 graduate credits
  + Must be numbered 300 or higher (this includes research or thesis credits)
  + Must be directly related to their dissertation research

During the 8-week summer session:

* **Non-dissertators** must be enrolled in at least 2 graduate credits
  + Must be numbered 300 or higher (this includes research or thesis credits)
  + Must be taken for a grade (not pass/fail or audit)
* **Dissertators** must be enrolled in 3 graduate credits
  + Must be numbered 300 or higher
  + Must be directly related to their dissertation research

[Add unit-specific requirements here]

In addition, you are required to **maintain satisfactory progress** toward your degree. For additional information, refer to the [Graduate School: Satisfactory Progress policy](https://policy.wisc.edu/library/UW-1218). For more specific enrollment information, see the Graduate School’s website on [Enrollment Requirements](https://policy.wisc.edu/library/UW-1208).

**Hours of Work or Work Schedule:**

The appointment percentage listed is used to determine your pay, but it does not mean a specific number of work hours. Talk with your Mentor to understand what work schedule is expected. If you have an F or J visa, you can only work up to 20 hours per week while the University is in session. Any additional time you spend must be only for your academic work and completion of your thesis or dissertation.

**Concurrent Appointments:**

Before accepting any additional new appointments, you must inform all department administrators and supervisors, who will in turn notify the [SCHOOL/COLLEGE HUMAN RESOURCES OFFICE]. It is your responsibility to be aware of the requirements for holding concurrent appointments. The concurrent appointment policies are found at [Policy for Supplementation and Concurrent Appointments](https://kb.wisc.edu/gradsch/page.php?id=33321) and [Policy for Maximum Levels of Graduate Assistantship Appointments](https://kb.wisc.edu/gradsch/page.php?id=33322).

**Compliance**

**Compliance Obligations:**

UW-Madison prohibits discrimination against applicants, employees, students, and visitors to campus who wish to participate in University programs or activities. Learn more about relevant law, policies, resources and complaint procedures and protected bases on the [Office of Compliance’s website](https://compliance.wisc.edu/eo-complaint/).

**Reporting Responsibilities:**

**Child Abuse or Neglect**

Under Wisconsin Executive Order #54 (EO 54), all UW–Madison employees must report child abuse or neglect if they see it or hear about it while doing their job, and if they have a good reason to believe it has happened or might happen. You must report it right away to Child Protective Services (CPS) or law enforcement. If the situation involves a UW employee, happens on campus, or takes place during a UW–Madison event, you also need to tell the Office of Human Resources, Workforce Relations.

If you are a mandatory reporter under Wis. Stat. 48.981(2)(a), you must also follow the state’s reporting rules. If you work in a healthcare setting, only report what is allowed under HIPAA.

Read more about [Reporting responsibilities](https://compliance.wisc.edu/titleix/mandatory-reporting/#all-uw-employees) for all UW–Madison employees.

**Sexual Assault**

Under Chapter 36 of the Wisconsin State Statutes, you are required to report if a UW-Madison student tells you they have been sexually assaulted or witnessed the sexual assault of another student. Use the [Campus Incident Reporting form for Sexual Misconduct and Clery Violations](https://cm.maxient.com/reportingform.php?UnivofWisconsinMadison&layout_id=11). Contact the Sexual Misconduct Resource and Response Program with questions.

**Required Training:**

You must complete the annual mandatory Cybersecurity Awareness Training if you have not already done so. Information about the training and the registration link is available on the [Cybersecurity website.](https://it.wisc.edu/about/division-of-information-technology/enterprise-information-security-services/office-of-cybersecurity/cybersecurity-awareness-training/)

**Research Policy:**

By accepting this appointment at UW-Madison, you agree to comply with UW-Madison research policies and the provisions of any funding agreement or other agreement establishing rights to intellectual property that applies to the research you participate in. After receiving your UW NetID, you may receive a link to acknowledge that you agree to abide by the UW-Madison and federal policy in the conduct of research.

**Disability and Pregnancy-Related Accommodations:**

It is the policy and practice of the University of Wisconsin-Madison to consider reasonable accommodations for qualified individuals [with disabilities](https://employeedisabilities.wisc.edu/americans-with-disability-act-ada/) or[pregnancy-related conditions](https://employeedisabilities.wisc.edu/pregnant-workers-fairness-act/). You may contact the appropriate [Divisional Disability Representative (DDR)](https://employeedisabilities.wisc.edu/divisional-disability-representatives-ddr/) at any time if you need a reasonable accommodation to perform the essential functions of your position or if you have other workplace barriers (e.g. parking, job-related training).

**Drug-Free Schools and Communities Act:**

All employees, faculty and staff are strongly encouraged to help make the University a drug-free workplace. You can do this by learning about substance abuse (its dangers and warning signs), encouraging others to avoid substance abuse, and getting help if you need it—either for yourself or for someone you are concerned about. Please review the [UW-Madison Compliance with the Drug-Free Schools & Communities Act](https://alcoholanddruginfo.students.wisc.edu/dfsac-act/), which is provided to all employees as part of their orientation to the University community.

To accept the terms of this position please sign and date below and return to [SCHOOL/COLLEGE HUMAN RESOURCES OFFICE].

Sincerely,

(SIGNATURE MUST BE HANDWRITTEN OR A PHOTOCOPY, NOT TYPED)

[MENTOR NAME]

[TITLE]

***Optional: Add EMPL ID here or in address field on page one of letter***

Attachment: Federal Affordable Care Act Notification

Cc: [DEPARTMENT FILE]

[NAME OF SCHOOL/COLLEGE] Human Resources Office

I accept the position of Research Assistant in the [OPERATIONAL AREA] in the [DEPARTMENT/PROGRAM].

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

[EMPLOYEE NAME] DATE

**Federal Affordable Care Act Notification**

The University of Wisconsin is required to provide all employees with a notice of the availability of the Health Insurance Marketplace and information on health insurance coverage available through your employment at the University of Wisconsin (UW). The Health Insurance Marketplace Notice is enclosed.

Although almost all individuals have been required to maintain health insurance because of what is called the Individual Mandate under the Affordable Care Act (ACA), beginning on January 1, 2019, individuals no longer have to comply with the Individual Mandate. However, individuals may continue to obtain health insurance coverage through employer-sponsored coverage with the UW, a governmental plan, such as Medicare, or the Marketplace (also known as the Exchange), which was created as an option for individuals to purchase health insurance (potentially with premium assistance).

**If you are eligible for and plan to enroll in the State Group Health Insurance plan through your employment at the UW, you do not need to enroll in coverage through the Marketplace, unless you choose to do so**. Most UW employees who are eligible for State Group Health Insurance will not be eligible for a premium subsidy for coverage purchased through the Marketplace.

For information about the Health Insurance Marketplace and options available to you, please visit the following websites:

* [HealthCare.gov](https://www.healthcare.gov/): for detailed information about health plans available to you, eligibility, premiums and premium subsidies, FAQs….
* [Universities of Wisconsin Affordable Care Act webpage](http://www.wisconsin.edu/ohrwd/aca/)

**If you need this information in another language,** please visit [HealthCare’s Language Resource page](https://www.healthcare.gov/language-resource/) or call HealthCare.gov at 1-800-318-2596.

If you have questions about your eligibility for health insurance through your employment, contact your [Human Resources representative](http://www.wisconsin.edu/ohrwd/benefits/contact/).