

ASSISTANTSHIPS

Each year the Department sets aside a number of Graduate Assistantships for entering Ph.D and MS students. In the current academic year (9 months) graduate assistants received a total financial package of at least \$33,899.50 for a level 1, ½ time assistantship. This package includes a waiver of up to nine credit hours tuition for each semester, fall and spring, health insurance, and for out-of-state students, waiver of out-of-state tuition. College, University, and Departmental Fellowships are also available. Students recruited with assistantships may expect a minimum of five years of support so long as they make continual satisfactory progress in their studies.

AWARDS

Assistantships are usually awarded for the fall semester early March and for spring semester early October by the Associate Chair. In the case of new students, decision are made on the basis of their previous academic work, letters of recommendation, and relevant experience. Continuing students are assessed on the basis of their academic progress in the program as indicated by grades, faculty evaluations of course work, and timely completion of program requirements. Priority for teaching assistantships is given to Ph.D. and M.S. students enrolled in the Plant Biology Graduate Program because teaching is a component of their degree requirement.

Courses that typically have teaching assistants:

- PLB 106 Plant Biology
- BS 162 Organismal and Population Biology
- PLB 218 Plants of Michigan
- PLB 341 Fundamental Genetics
- PLB 355L Ecology Lab
- PLB 400 Introduction to Bioinformatics
- PLB 402 Biology of Fungi
- PLB 416L Plant Physiology Laboratory
- PLB 418 Plant Systematics
- PLB 441 Plant Ecology
- PLB 355L Ecology Lab
- PLB 812 Plant Genomics
- ISB 202 Applied Environmental & Organismal Biology

FELLOWSHIPS

The department seeks fellowships for incoming Plant Biology students from the University Distinguished Fellowship and the University Enrichment Fellowship. More information can be found [here](#).

The Graduate School website has links to further information about [Fellowships/Funding/Financial Aid](#).

OTHER FUNDING SOURCES

A wealth of information can be found [here](#).

More information about graduate funding (fellowships, assistantships, etc.) is to be found on [The MSU Graduate School web pages](#).

GRADUATE EMPLOYEES UNION

Graduate assistants and other graduate student employees of the University are covered by a contract negotiated with the [Graduate Employees Union](#).