

Sent on behalf of the Graduate Student Association

2020 Chancellor's Dissertation Medal *Call for Nominations*

Award Description

The Graduate Student Association (GSA), in coordination with the Graduate Division and the Office of Research Affairs, is seeking outstanding graduate students who have recently completed their thesis work at UC San Diego. Each department is eligible to nominate one student who has completed an outstanding dissertation in the past year. A committee of faculty assembled by the dean of each UC San Diego division will select a winner for their division. Historically, award winners have had the opportunity to be honored at commencement, where they received medals at the time of being hooded. Winners will be recognized as a recipient of the medal on the Graduate Division website.

This Medal is an excellent opportunity for the university to recognize the work of its most outstanding students as they complete their PhDs.

Eligibility

- At most one PhD student from each department will be considered for the division-level award.
- PhD students who are registered with the medical or pharmacy schools will be included with the division of biological sciences; IR/PS and Rady PhD students will be included with the division of social sciences.
- **Students must have defended their PhD theses and completed their paperwork with the Graduate Division between April 1st of previous year through March 31st of the current year, or commencement year, in order to be eligible for the award.**

Requirements

- 2 letters of recommendation from committee members, one of which must come from the committee chair or co-chair
- Research summary (1000 word maximum) of the dissertation research, including project background and rationale, an explanation of research design (e.g., methods, procedure, analysis plans), and other important aspects of the project.
- One optional, additional page listing references included in the research summary (references need not count toward the 1000 word maximum)
- Copy of the dissertation including an abstract
- Letter of support from the department chair

Criteria for selection

The quality of the research and dissertation alone is to be considered for applicants to this award. The criteria to be considered by the committees are:

- *Impact*: The importance and impact of the research to the field and/or the department
- *Originality*: The insight, originality, and creativity shown by the author
- *Presentation*: The effectiveness of the writing, clarity, and organization of the thesis
- *Quality*: The soundness of the methodology and the quality of the data

Response Deadlines

· **Department level:** Department nominations and required materials are due to divisional deans no later than **Friday, April 24th**

· **Divisional level:** Divisional selections are due to the GSA VP Academic at vpacademic@gsa.ucsd.edu no later than **Friday, May 8th**

Immediate Next Steps

- *If you are a student* and would like to be considered for this award, please notify your committee chair(s) and begin preparing your application materials
- *If you are a committee chair* and would like to nominate one of your students, notify your student and department chair, and request that the student begin preparing his or her application materials
- *If you are a department chair*, prepare to receive application materials and select a department nominee by Friday, April 24th
- *If you are a dean of division*, prepare to receive departmental nominations and prepare to submit your divisional selection by Friday, May 8th

Notification of award

Award winners will be notified of their selection by Friday, May 22nd
An award winner event will be held during the second week of June, 2020

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