



GRADUATE AWARDS IN TRANSPORTATION

The **Western Transportation Institute (WTI)** is a university-based research center located at Montana State University (MSU). WTI's vision is to advance rural transportation through research and education.

In order to strengthen the nation's pool of transportation professionals, WTI provides graduate assistantship awards each year to students pursuing an advanced degree with a transportation focus. Two types of awards are currently available:

1. Transportation Award A

(for students completing a Plan A (Thesis) Masters degree or PhD)

Award amounts:

- \$18,000 annual stipend (\$1,200/month during academic year; \$2,400/month over summer).
- A tuition waiver for up to 9 credit hours per semester of approved graduate coursework.

Transportation Award A covers up to 2 years of graduate work for Masters students and up to 3 years for PhD students. Research award recipients will work 20 hours per week during fall and spring semesters and 40 hours per week during the summer performing research activities at WTI. Awardees must produce an approved thesis or dissertation on a transportation-related topic. Research work performed may count towards thesis/dissertation with the approval of the academic advisor.

2. Transportation Award B

(for students completing a Plan B (Professional Paper) Masters degree)

Award amounts:

- \$12,000 annual stipend (\$700/month stipend during academic year; \$1,900/month over summers)
- A \$2,000 tuition and fee waiver each semester for up to 3 semesters of academic coursework (fall, spring, and summer).

Transportation Award B is intended for students interested in completing a professional paper for their Masters degree. Award recipients will receive a 12 month appointment and will work 15 hours per week during the fall and spring semesters and 40 hours per week during the summer performing research activities at WTI.

Eligibility and Selection:

All award recipients must be U.S. citizens or permanent residents in the United States, must be formally admitted into a graduate program at Montana State University, and must be enrolled full-time in an academic program leading to an advanced degree.

A review committee comprised of WTI researchers and MSU faculty will evaluate applicants based on academic performance, related work experience and performance, academic or professional recommendations, and compatibility of research goals and interests with the resources of WTI.

Terms and Conditions:

After an award is made, the award recipient is required to meet with a WTI researcher and an academic advisor to discuss required coursework and research activities. Award recipients may not hold combined appointments (including Research or Teaching Assistantships) which exceed 20 hours per week. Therefore, Award A recipients may not hold a second appointment.

All awards are contingent upon the recipient's academic and research performance.

Application Procedure

Applicants are required to submit the following:

- A current resume that includes contact information (your current and permanent addresses, telephone number, and email address); all colleges or universities attended as well as the degree earned, date awarded, and cumulative GPA; and your employment history
- Official academic transcripts
- Two academic and/or professional letters of recommendation
- A two-page statement of purpose. The statement should describe your proposed field of research and its importance to the transportation field overall as well as your long-range professional goals and how the award would assist you in achieving those goals. Please describe your proposed start date (summer, fall, or spring). In addition, describe how your educational and work experiences qualify you for this award.

Applications are due **March 1.**

To apply, please send all required information requested above (including official transcripts and letters of recommendation) to:

Susan Gallagher
Education Program Coordinator
Western Transportation Institute
PO Box 174250
Montana State University
Bozeman, MT 59717-4250

For more information about WTI or MSU, please contact Susan Gallagher by phone at (406) 994-6559 or email at sgallagher@coe.montana.edu. Or visit our website at: <http://www.wti.montana.edu/>