

**Departmental Graduate Awards for Excellence in Research**  
**Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry**  
**University of Maryland College Park**

**Purpose.** Recognition of outstanding research accomplishments is one way to reward and foster excellence.

**Eligibility.** All Chemistry and Biochemistry graduate students are eligible. We anticipate that up to four awards will be made. Except under exceptional circumstances, we expect that all nominees will have advanced to candidacy.

**Award Description.** A Research Excellence Award includes a certificate and a \$250 cash award. Recipients will be recognized and they will present a 15-20 minute research talk at a Graduate Student-Faculty Ceremony in May.

**Nomination Procedure.** Students may be nominated for Research Excellence Awards by any faculty member or by themselves. Complete applications should be submitted to Tia Smith-Best in the Graduate Office.

An application package should include the following:

1. Student's CV
2. Graduate transcript (unofficial copy)
3. Two-page research description, prepared by the student, including:
  - a. Research Title
  - b. Definition of research problem
  - c. Research results summary
  - d. Contributions to present knowledge and future implications
4. A supporting letter from the student's faculty advisor. This letter should address the student's research accomplishments and compare the nominee's accomplishments to those of present and former students.
5. One letter from another faculty member, who should be a member of the student's dissertation committee. The letter should address accomplishments relative to past and present students.
6. Student's reprints and preprints, if any; these can be submitted electronically.

**Selection Method.** The Graduate Awards Committee will evaluate applications and select finalists. The major criteria in finalist selection will be convincing documentation of excellence in research. The Committee will notify the faculty of finalist selection(s).

**Award Method.** Awardees will be officially notified by letter. The certificate and cash award will be presented at a Graduate Student-Faculty Ceremony on May 11. Award recipients will present a 15-20 minute research talk at this Graduate Student-Faculty Ceremony. A reception will follow the ceremony.

**APPLICATION DEADLINE:**  
**April 22, 2011**

**SUBMIT COMPLETED APPLICATIONS TO:**  
**Tia Smith-Best, Graduate Office, Department of Chemistry & Biochemistry**  
**[tbest@umd.edu](mailto:tbest@umd.edu)**

The student should submit one PDF including everything but the faculty letters, with subject line "Research Excellence Award – Last Name, First Name – Application"

The advisor and the second faculty recommender should each submit a separate email with the subject line "Research Excellence Award – Last Name, First Name – Recommendation"