

## **2026 School of Graduate Studies Awards Instructions**

Thank you for helping to recognize the many outstanding graduate students at Case Western Reserve University! Please see the following pages for instructions on how to nominate students for awards managed by the School of Graduate Studies and how to submit notifications of awards issued by your department. The following awards will be covered:

- [Richard A. Zdanis Research Fellowship](#)
- [Ruth Barber Moon Award](#)
- [Graduate Dean's Instructional Excellence Award to Graduate Assistants](#)
- [Lenore A. Kola Graduate Student Community Service Award](#)
- [Cleveland Arts Prize: Kathryn Karipides Scholarship in Modern Dance](#)
- [Graduate Student Appreciation Award](#)
- [Notification of Departmental Award Recipients](#)

Please review the instructions closely as most nominations require specific material to be collected in advance and uploaded at the time the form is submitted. Several awards (Zdanis, Moon, and Instructional Excellence) require a signed confirmation from the chair of your program.

All nomination and notification forms are submitted in CampusGroups. You may be asked to log in to CampusGroups with your CWRU network ID and passphrase. After submission, you will receive an email confirmation of submission sent by CampusGroups. If you do not receive this, your entry may be saved as a draft in your account or you may have turned off notifications from CampusGroups. If you do not receive the email confirmation and you believe you did complete your submission, please contact us at [sgsevents@case.edu](mailto:sgsevents@case.edu). You will receive a second email once we have reviewed and processed your submission. Please note, for nomination forms, this email will be confirmation of receipt only and does not indicate the nominee has been selected to receive the award.

You can use the links above to access the CampusGroups form for each award.

The student winners of awards managed by Grad Studies and their nominators will be notified in April. All awards – Grad Studies and department awards – will be honored at our ceremony on **Wednesday, April 29 at 3:00pm EDT** in Tinkham Veale Ballrooms.

All nominations and notifications of department awards must be completed and submitted in CampusGroups by **5:00pm EDT on Wednesday, March 25**.

Please contact us at [sgsevents@case.edu](mailto:sgsevents@case.edu) with any questions. Thank You!

## **2026 Richard A. Zdanis Research Fellowship Award**

The School of Graduate Studies is pleased once again to announce that we are accepting nominations for the Zdanis Award, which is a fellowship fund in honor of Provost and University Vice President Emeritus and Professor Emeritus of Physics Richard A. Zdanis. The purpose of the fund is to provide \$5,000 in financial support to help PhD candidates complete work on their dissertations.

After submission, you will receive an email confirmation of submission sent by CampusGroups. If you do not receive this, your entry may be saved as a draft in your account or you have turned off notifications from CampusGroups. If you do not receive the email confirmation and you believe you did complete your submission, please contact us at [sgsevents@case.edu](mailto:sgsevents@case.edu). You will receive a second email once we have reviewed and processed your nomination. NOTE: Neither of these emails mean the student you have nominated has been selected to receive the award.

The departmental chair or program directors, in consultation with department faculty, designate the department's nominee for the Zdanis Award. Each academic department may **nominate only one candidate**. In the following pages, you will be asked to upload a .PDF confirming the chair's endorsement of this nomination. Download the Department Chair Confirmation of Nominee form: <http://bit.ly/2HnaMfW>

This award **cannot supplant existing funding** received by the student. Nominees must have advanced to candidacy and be actively engaged in their research projects.

### **Principal Research Advisor / Nominator:**

1. The Principal Research Advisor for the nominee should complete and submit this nomination form.
2. To be eligible the nominee must be endorsed by the CWRU faculty member who serves as the doctoral student's research advisor and can articulate the student's academic promise. The endorsement must include the ways in which the project demonstrates the following: research creativity, the rationale for conducting the study, the research's importance for advancing knowledge in the student's field and the expected contribution of the research to the student's field of practice (if applicable).
3. The research advisor should also provide a statement of why this fellowship will not supplant funding the student would otherwise receive and a list of current and pending research funding.

**(Zdanis Fellowship instructions continued on next page)**

## **2026 Richard A. Zdanis Research Fellowship Award**

**(Zdanis Fellowship instructions continued from previous page)**

**Required documents:** Before completing this form, the nominator will need to obtain from the student nominee these documents below in addition to the chair's approval form. All required documents will be uploaded in the form on the following pages.

1. A statement from the student indicating the nature of their research and how the award could be used to enhance their research as well as furthering their personal and professional development after their receipt of the doctoral degree (3 page maximum). The nominator must upload the statement to their nomination.
2. Student's CV (2 page maximum) giving a brief synopsis of relevant employment, teaching, research, publications and awards. The nominator must upload the CV to their nomination.
3. A completed form signed by the department chair confirming that this student is the singular candidate the department is submitting for this award. Download the Department Chair Confirmation of Nominee form: <http://bit.ly/2HnaMfW>

**Eligibility:** A PhD candidate with approval from their department's chair.

**Award:** \$5,000; the award will be presented at the Graduate Studies Award Ceremony on **Wednesday, April 29 at 3:00pm EDT** in the Tinkham Veale Ballrooms and the monetary prize to be issued during the month of May.

**Nomination Deadline:** The nomination must be completed by **5:00pm EDT on Wednesday, March 25.**

# **2026 The Ruth Barber Moon Award**

The School of Graduate Studies is pleased once again to announce that we are accepting nominations for the Ruth Barber Moon Award. The purpose of the fund is to provide \$1,000 in financial support to help outstanding graduate students during their studies.

Each academic department may nominate **one graduate student**, who demonstrates:

- academic promise
- leadership ability
- financial need

Because this award is limited to **one nomination per academic department** in programs managed by the School of Graduate Studies, we require that the department chair or an administrator designated by the department chair submit the nomination. In the following pages, you will be asked to upload a .PDF confirming the chair's endorsement of this nomination. Download the Department Chair Confirmation of Nominee form: <http://bit.ly/2OReLWc>

After submission, you will receive an email confirmation of submission sent by CampusGroups. If you do not receive this, your entry may be saved as a draft in your account or you have turned off notifications from CampusGroups. If you do not receive the email confirmation and you believe you did complete your submission, please contact us at [sgsevents@case.edu](mailto:sgsevents@case.edu). You will receive a second email once we have reviewed and processed your nomination. NOTE: Neither of these emails mean the student you have nominated has been selected to receive the award.

**Eligibility:** A graduate student whose degree is awarded by the School of Graduate Studies and with approval by their department's chair for nomination.

**Award:** \$1,000; the award will be presented at the Graduate Studies Award Ceremony on **Wednesday, April 29 at 3:00pm EDT** in the Tinkham Veale Ballrooms and the monetary prize to be issued during the month of May.

**Nomination Deadline:** The nomination must be completed by **5:00pm EDT on Wednesday, March 25**.

## **2025 The Graduate Dean's Instructional Excellence Award**

The School of Graduate Studies is pleased once again to announce that we are accepting nominations for the Graduate Dean's Instructional Excellence Award. This award is available to graduate student teaching assistants who demonstrate outstanding achievement in instruction in undergraduate classes within the past year. It presents academic departments with an annual opportunity to honor graduate students who have shown exceptional skill and dedication. It is also a way for us to stress the importance we place on the undergraduate experience at CWRU.

After submission, you will receive an email confirmation of submission sent by CampusGroups. If you do not receive this, your entry may be saved as a draft in your account or you have turned off notifications from CampusGroups. If you do not receive the email confirmation and you believe you did complete your submission, please contact us at [sgsevents@case.edu](mailto:sgsevents@case.edu). You will receive a second email once we have reviewed and processed your nomination. **NOTE:** Neither of these emails mean the student you have nominated has been selected to receive the award.

**Eligibility:** Teaching assistants who assist with a course, a lab, or a recitation, or who assist with grading or tutoring. Furthermore, candidates for nomination must have completed, or be currently enrolled in, the non-credit course UNIV 400, which is a course required of graduate students who provide instruction for undergraduate courses.

The names of **two nominees** may be submitted by each department. The chair, in consultation with the department faculty, nominates graduate assistants whose performances are considered exceptional. Nominations may also originate from individual faculty members, but need an endorsement from the department chair. In the following pages, you will be asked to upload a PDF from the chair endorsing this nomination. Download the Department Chair Confirmation of Nominee form: <https://bit.ly/3ovBgBW>

**Award:** The award will be presented at the Graduate Studies Award Ceremony on **Wednesday, April 29 at 3:00pm EDT** in the Tinkham Veale Ballrooms and the monetary prize to be issued during the month of May.

**Nomination Deadline:** The nomination must be completed by **5:00pm EDT on Wednesday, March 25**.

## **2026 The Lenore A Kola Graduate Student Community Service Award**

The School of Graduate Studies is pleased once again to announce that we are accepting nominations for the Lenore A Kola Graduate Student Community Award. Dr. Lenore A. Kola was an Associate Professor of Social Work at the Mandel School of Applied Social Sciences and former Dean of the School of Graduate Studies (2001-2004). During her time as Dean, Dr. Kola implemented numerous changes in Graduate Studies that have increased services that Graduate Studies provides to its constituents.

Dr. Kola also mentored graduate students in the Graduate Student Senate Executive Committee to become more actively engaged in the life of the university. During Dr. Kola's tenure the Graduate Student Senate (GSS) independently launched a "Save the Graduate Dean" campaign when the university leadership was closely examining the need for this position. Dr. Kola's mentoring encouraged a number of graduate students involved with GSS to give back to the university community which resulted in a very active GSS that sought to serve their fellow graduate students on many different levels.

In recognition of Dr. Kola's contributions to the graduate student body and the Graduate Student Senate, the School of Graduate Studies created the Lenore A. Kola Graduate Student Community Service Award.

After submission, you will receive an email confirmation of submission sent by CampusGroups. If you do not receive this, your entry may be saved as a draft in your account or you have turned off notifications from CampusGroups. If you do not receive the email confirmation and you believe you did complete your submission, please contact us at [sgsevents@case.edu](mailto:sgsevents@case.edu). You will receive a second email once we have reviewed and processed your nomination. **NOTE:** Neither of these emails mean the student you have nominated has been selected to receive the award.

**Required documents:** Before completing this form, the nominator will need to obtain the following from the student nominee. These documents will be uploaded in the form on the following pages.

- Student's CV
- Student's statement of involvement with a student organization.

**Eligibility:**

- A graduate student whose degree is awarded by the School of Graduate Studies may be nominated by anyone in the CWRU community (faculty, staff, or student).
- Must be a current active member of the Graduate Student Council or a student organization recognized by the Graduate Student Council.

**Award:** \$1,000; the award will be presented at the Graduate Studies Award Ceremony on **Wednesday, April 29 at 3:00pm EDT** in the Tinkham Veale Ballrooms and the monetary prize to be issued during the month of May.

**Nomination Deadline:** The nomination must be completed by **5:00pm EDT on Wednesday, March 25**.

## **2026 Cleveland Arts Prize: Kathryn Karipides Scholarship in Modern Dance**

The School of Graduate Studies is pleased once again to announce that we are accepting nominations for the Kathryn Karipides Scholarship. This award, held by the Cleveland Arts Prize and administered through Case Western Reserve University's School of Graduate Studies, awards a graduate dance student a stipend to attend a summer Modern Dance program/workshop of their choice. Learn more about Kathryn Karipides at [http://clevelandartsprize.org/awardees/kathryn\\_karipides.html](http://clevelandartsprize.org/awardees/kathryn_karipides.html)

After submission, you will receive an email confirmation of submission sent by CampusGroups. If you do not receive this, your entry may be saved as a draft in your account or you have turned off notifications from CampusGroups. If you do not receive the email confirmation and you believe you did complete your submission, please contact us at [sgsevents@case.edu](mailto:sgsevents@case.edu). You will receive a second email once we have reviewed and processed your nomination. **NOTE:** Neither of these emails mean the nominee has been selected to receive the award.

This form should be submitted by the student (who meets the edibility requirements below) nominating themselves.

**Eligibility:** Must be an incoming or current student or recent alumni (graduated within the last year) of the MFA Dance program and who is interested in attending a summer modern dance program.

### **Application Requirements:**

- Completed application (this form)
- Your planned program of study
- A brief bio
- Two letters of recommendation from faculty members
- Unofficial graduate transcript (a 3.5 GPA is required)

**Note:** Recipients of the scholarship will be asked by the Cleveland Arts Prize to submit a head-shot photograph shortly after the recipient is selected and submit a brief review of their summer study and a dance photograph at its completion.

**Award:** This scholarship award is approximately \$2,000. The actual amount is dependent on spendable income from the endowment. The award will be presented at the Graduate Studies Award Ceremony on **Wednesday, April 29 at 3:00pm EDT** in the Tinkham Veale Ballrooms. The monetary value of the scholarship will be issued by the Cleveland Arts Prize in the month of May or June.

**Nomination Deadline:** The completed application and required recommendations must be submitted by **5:00pm EDT on Wednesday, March 25**. Please remember to allow enough time for the endorsement.

## **2026 Graduate Student Appreciation Award**

The School of Graduate Studies is pleased to announce an opportunity for faculty, staff, and community members to recognize graduate students that make a difference on our campus and/or the Cleveland community during the past year.

After submission, you will receive an email confirmation of submission sent by CampusGroups. If you do not receive this, your entry may be saved as a draft in your account or you have turned off notifications from CampusGroups. If you do not receive the email confirmation and you believe you did complete your submission, please contact us at [sgsevents@case.edu](mailto:sgsevents@case.edu). You will receive a second email once we have reviewed and processed your nomination. **NOTE:** Neither of these emails mean the student you have nominated has been selected to receive the award.

Graduate school is a busy time when students focus the bulk of their energy on their graduate career. In the words of Winston Churchill, "We make a living by what we do, but we make a life by what we give."

There are graduate students on this campus that go above and beyond what's expected. Their actions improve the campus community, the city of Cleveland, and touch the lives of many people.

Do you know a graduate student that embodied these principles during the past year? Maybe they volunteer in their department, mentor younger students, are involved at Case in other professional or social groups, or donate time to a community organization. These extra-curricular activities are integral for a complete graduate student experience. We want to recognize those students that exceed the typical expectations of a graduate student and improve the lives of others around them.

**Eligibility:** A graduate student whose degree is awarded by the School of Graduate Studies.

**Award:** The award will be presented at the Graduate Studies Award Ceremony on **Wednesday, April 29 at 3:00pm EDT** in the Tinkham Veale Ballrooms and the monetary prize to be issued during the month of May.

**Nomination Deadline:** The nomination must be completed by **5:00pm EDT on Wednesday, March 25**.

Community members who wish to nominate a student but have difficulty submitting through CampusGroups should contact us at [sgsevents@case.edu](mailto:sgsevents@case.edu).



## **2026 Departmental Awards Submission Form**

Thank you for recognizing students from your department or program! Please use the following form to provide us with the information needed to include them in the Graduate Awards Ceremony. You will need to complete a separate form for each individual award winner.

This form should be **completed only by those approved by their department or program** to submit.

The School of Graduate Studies will host an in-person award ceremony on **Wednesday, April 29 at 3:00pm EDT** in the Tinkham Veale Ballrooms. We may reach out to invite an individual from your department to present your awards at the ceremony. The ceremony is also planned to be livestreamed.

After submission, you will receive an email confirmation of submission sent by CampusGroups. If you do not receive this, your entry may be saved as a draft in your account or you have turned off notifications from CampusGroups. If you do not receive the email confirmation and you believe you did complete your submission, please contact us at [sgsevents@case.edu](mailto:sgsevents@case.edu). You will receive a second email once we have reviewed and processed your submission.

**NOTE:** If you are submitting winners for the following awards in biomedical sciences, please do not use this form and instead contact Malana Bey: [mcb19@case.edu](mailto:mcb19@case.edu) / 216.368.5655:

- Doctoral Excellence Award (any field)
- Academic Excellence for the Master's (any field)
- Arthur F.W. Hughes Award
- Charlotte Smith Award
- Lester O. Krampitz Award for Best Predoctoral Research
- Bioethics Student Educator of Excellence (Bioethics)
- Herbert S. Steuer Memorial Outstanding Anatomy Educator Award
- Excellence in Graduate Teaching Award

**Deadline:** The submission must be completed by **5:00pm EDT on Wednesday, April 1.**