

# Research Assistantships



The brand new Science and Medical Communications Laboratory (SAMComm) is seeking two ¼ time graduate research assistants to work on a project designed to assess the trustworthiness of the US Food and Drug Administration's medical regulatory process. RAs will conduct qualitative content analysis of new medical products sponsor presentations before an FDA's advisory committee. This analysis will be designed to assess the nature and extent of industry interference in the regulatory process. Primarily, this will involve using the software

program NVivo to code the sources of evidence and argumentative strategies used at the meetings. (Necessary technical training will be provided as part of the assistantship.) Additional responsibilities will include preparing research findings memos, conducting literature reviews, attending regular project meetings, and other relevant research tasks as assigned. Finally, RAs may have the opportunity to participate collaboratively as a named-author on conference presentations and/or peer-reviewed scholarly journal articles.

Applications are invited from all current English MA and PhD students. Special consideration will be given to applicants who meet one or more of the following criteria:

- Exemplary completion of relevant coursework in Plan B and/or G.
- Noteworthy experience with rhetoric of science, technology, or medicine; new materialisms; science and technology studies; theories of bodies and technology; and/or other related areas.
- Noteworthy experience with rhetorical criticism, argumentation studies, technical communication research, and/or qualitative research methodologies/software.

Further particulars:

- Workload is no more than 190 hours for the semester (approximately 10 hours/week).
- RAship may be combined with a current TAsip. In this case, the TA/RA would teach 1 course for the semester in addition to the RAship and receive a modest pay increase.
- Exact rates of pay depend on standing (non-doctoral, doctoral, or dissertator). See <http://www.graduateschool.uwm.edu/faculty-staff/administrative-financial/assistantship-schedule/> for additional information.
- 1 RAship is for 1 semester only. The second includes the possibility of renewal for up to two years.

To apply, please send full CV and list of relevant coursework (include titles for special topics courses) to [grahams@uwm.edu](mailto:grahams@uwm.edu). Please specify whether you wish to be considered for the 1 semester appointment, the appointment with the possibility of renewal, or both. Screening begins immediately, and CVs will be accepted until both positions are filled. I am happy to meet with interested candidates to further discuss the position, project, and/or answer any questions you might have.