

MRS GRADUATE STUDENT AWARDS – GUIDELINES AND SUBMISSION INFORMATION (updated on May 14, 2020)

Applicant Guidelines

MRS Graduate Student Awards are intended to honor and encourage graduate students whose academic achievements and current materials research display a high level of excellence and distinction. The MRS seeks to recognize students of exceptional ability who show promise for significant future achievement in materials research and education.

Procedure

Graduate Student Award Applications are accepted from graduate students who authored or co-authored a submitted abstract for the current upcoming MRS meeting. Applications that include abstracts which are ultimately accepted are reviewed by the Graduate Student Award Subcommittee and symposium organizers for the selection of finalists.

Presentation of research may occur in either a virtual or in-person format to be determined by MRS at a later date. Selected finalists must be available to participate on the designated date in order to maintain eligibility to receive a Gold or Silver Graduate Student Award and will be given ample notification of the date for planning purposes.

Awards

Finalists are chosen to receive either Gold or Silver Awards and announced in the *MRS Bulletin* and on the MRS Web site.

Gold Awards: \$400 and a presentation plaque

Silver Awards: \$200 and a certificate of accomplishment

Arthur Nowick Graduate Student Award

(Endowed by the Nowick family for presentation at both Spring and Fall Meetings)

The Arthur Nowick Graduate Student Award, which honors the late Dr. Arthur Nowick and his lifelong commitment to teaching and mentoring students in materials science, will be presented to a GSA finalist who shows particular promise as a future teacher and mentor. Please note that this is optional, and students who wish to be considered for this award should indicate so per the Submission Guidelines on the next page.

Arthur Nowick Award: \$500 and a presentation plaque. This award is presented at the MRS Spring and Fall Meetings.

Rules & Eligibility

The applicant must be:

- an author or co-author of an abstract submitted for oral or poster presentation during the upcoming MRS meeting specified on the current application
- in good standing in a recognized academic graduate degree program*

*Applicants must be current students. Exceptions are made for individuals who have completed their graduate studies and successfully defended their doctoral dissertation, or who have received their final graduate degree, during the four months prior to the MRS meeting provided they are presenting research that was performed as part of their graduate studies. Individuals who have received their final graduate degree (according to actual the date on the diploma) more than four months in advance of the upcoming MRS meeting are not eligible to apply.

Previous MRS Gold Award recipients are ineligible.

GRADUATE STUDENT AWARD SUBMISSION INFORMATION

Application

Applications will only be accepted via the MRS Graduate Student Award Submission Web site by the published deadline. Applications submitted via mail, fax, or e-mail will not be accepted. There will be no exceptions for late submittal of the application or Letter of Evaluation.

For deadline information, please go to <https://www.mrs.org/awards/>.

Submission Guidelines (Only PDF files will be accepted)

1) **Abstract and Description of Research**

A **one-page Abstract** must be included for award evaluation, **along with a two-page** Description of Research and combine as one document of a total of three pages. The only acceptable file extension for uploading your file is a PDF.

- **Abstract:** Must be identical, including the title, to any one of your abstracts that was submitted separately for oral or poster presentation during the current MRS meeting. (Extended abstracts and supplemental pages are not to be included.)

NOTE: Do not wait for MRS notification of your abstract status; ultimately, only applications that include accepted abstracts will be evaluated for the selection of finalists.

- **Description of Research:** Two-page maximum, including optional figures and/or references associated with the abstract. (Personal information or resumes are not to be included.) The Description of Research should include a clear, concise description of the:
 - a) aim of the research and its relationship to the status of the field
 - b) applicant's specific contributions and how they demonstrate exceptional ability and future promise
 - c) significant results of the research and how they relate to the specific research area and the broader materials field
 - d) status of any publications authored by the applicant that are relevant to this research

2) **Optional: Teaching/Mentoring Experience/Arthur Nowick Award**

If you would like to be considered for the Arthur Nowick Graduate Student Award, please also include a one-page summary of teaching/mentoring experience. Personal information or resumes are not to be included. The Teaching/Mentoring Experience summary should include a clear, concise description of the:

- Prior exceptional experience with mentoring of students, teaching courses and other teaching assistant activities.
- Educational volunteer or outreach activities that have promoted and advanced materials science and engineering.
- Awards or recognitions for teaching and mentoring activities.

NOTE: Student will combine the Abstract, Description of Research and the **optional** Teaching/Mentoring Experience documents into **ONE complete file** in this order:

Page 1-Abstract ; Pages 2/3-Description of Research; Page 4-Teaching/Mentoring Experience (Nowick Award/Optional). The only acceptable file extension for uploading to the submission system is a PDF.

3) Letter of Evaluation

A **two-page-maximum Letter of Evaluation** must be submitted separately by your thesis advisor (choose one advisor) via [the GSA published link for submitting letters of evaluation](#) by the published dates of acceptance. Please **give your advisor ample prior notice** that you will be submitting an application so that the Letter of Evaluation can also be submitted by the deadline. **After a student has submitted an application, the Thesis Advisor will receive an email with details on submitting the Letter of Evaluation along with the appropriate link to upload the letter document.**

Criteria for Selection

In the selection of both finalists and award recipients, the judges look for evidence of:

- Excellence in the conduct of materials research, including
 - thoroughness of the applicant's research
 - originality and independence of the applicant's contributions
 - depth of understanding of the research topic, the methodologies used, and the relationship of the results to the specific research area and the broader materials field
 - scholarship and ingenuity shown by the student in undertaking the research project
- Promise for future substantial achievement in materials research
- For the Arthur Nowick Graduate Student Award, promise as a future teacher and mentor

General Information

- Each application is valid for the meeting to which you submitted an abstract.
- Finalists will be notified and will be required to present a 10-minute special talk. Format of event to be determined and sent to each finalist with specific details on their required participation. *Because the award recognizes the achievements and potential of the student, not the research project, the finalist must be the presenter during the Special Talk Session.*
- Finalists' talks should be aimed at a general materials science audience (i.e., the judges) rather than at the specialists in their specific field.
- Finalists will be requested to send a head/shoulders photograph to MRS.

Any questions concerning the Graduate Student Award application may be directed to the Coordinator, Lorri Smiley: e-mail: gsa@mrs.org.

[Go to next page for Application Info](#)



MRS Graduate Student Award Application

EXAMPLE OF APPLICATION SUBMISSION SITE

*** Required Fields**

Abstract Information

This is the Abstract Control number received when the abstract was submitted to the MRS

*** MRS Control ID No:** Meeting Abstract Site

Symposium Title:

*** Related Symposia (Choose 2 or 3):**

*** Abstract Title:**

*** Upload Document containing: combined Abstract and Description of Research (and Nowick Award – optional – regarding teaching experience)** Valid accepted file type is PDF only.

Yes, I am applying for the Arthur Nowick Graduate Student Award and have included the Teaching/Mentoring Information with my Abstract and Description of Research document uploaded per the above.

No, I do not wish to be considered for the Arthur Nowick Graduate Student Award.

Applicant

*** Last Name:**

*** First Name:**

Middle Initial:

*** Institution:**

Thesis Advisor

*** Last Name:**

*** First Name:**

Middle Initial:

*** Institution:**

* Department:

* Address (St./Box/Mail Code):

* City:

* State/Province:

* Zip/Postal Code:

* Country:

* Telephone:

Fax:

* Email (at your institution):

* Department:

* Address (St./Box/Mail Code):

* City:

* State/Province:

* Zip/Postal Code:

* Country:

* Telephone:

Fax:

* Email (at your institution):

Educational Background - Current Graduate School

* Name of School:

* Department:

* Degree you are working toward:

* Location of School:

* Major Field of Study:

* Date you expect to receive this degree: MM/YYYY

Previous Education - Graduate, Undergraduate

School Name	School Location	Department	Years Attended (yyyy-yyyy)	Major Field of Study	Degree Awarded	Degree Date
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Other Special Training/Experience (optional)



MRS Graduate Student Award Application

EXAMPLE OF SUBMISSION SITE PAGE FOR LETTER OF EVALUATION

Thesis Advisor's Letter of Evaluation Submission

Note to Thesis Advisor

Thank you for assisting in the MRS Graduate Student Award program by providing the appraisal and opinions for which you are our most informed and responsible source.

In **two pages or less**, please comment on the performance of this student in the conduct of his/her current research and on his/her promise for future substantial achievement in materials research. Keep in mind the selection criteria listed below. The application, of which this Letter of Evaluation is an important part, and the finalist's presentation, are judged by researchers with expertise both in and outside of the applicant's project area.

In the selection of both finalists and award recipients, the judges look for evidence of:

1. Excellence in the conduct of materials research, including
 - o thoroughness of the applicant's research
 - o originality and independence of the applicant's contributions
 - o depth of understanding of the research topic, the methodologies used, and the relationship of the results to the specific research area and the broader materials field
 - o scholarship and ingenuity shown by the student in undertaking the research project
2. Promise for future substantial achievement in materials research
3. For the Arthur Nowick Graduate Student Award (if the student has also applied for this on the application site) comment on the students potential for future teaching and mentoring.

For the student's application to be considered for the award, your letter must be submitted by the published deadline, via the designated link which will be sent to you in an email after the student has submitted the application to the GSA application site. Mailed, faxed, or e-mailed letters will not be accepted. There will be no exceptions for late submittals.

Student's Information

* Last Name:

Student Last Name is
required

* First Name:

Student First
Name is
required

* Email (at your institution):

Student's Email is required. Please use the same email
address that was placed on the student's application.

Thesis Advisor's Information*** Last Name:** Advisor Last Name is
required*** First Name:** Advisor First
Name is
required*** Email (at your institution):** Advisor Email is required and should be the same email address that
the student entered on the application.**Letter of Evaluation Upload:****(Two-Page Limit)**

Valid accepted file type is PDF only.

[Browse for and upload a letter of evaluation.](#)

SUBMIT