

## **Research Semester Off Campus for Advanced Graduate Students**

February 2, 2006

The Department of Mathematics offers graduate students who have passed *both the PhD Qualifying Examination and the General Examination* for the PhD the *possibility* of taking a Research Semester off campus. The Research Semester is intended for those graduate students whose dissertation research would benefit significantly from visiting another university in the U.S. or abroad. During the Research Semester, the student keeps full-time status at LSU by taking sufficiently many hours of Dissertation Research (Math 9000). Graduate Teaching Assistants will need to make plans a year in advance, because it is necessary for the Department to plan for teaching duties while the student is away. While away, Teaching Assistants will be reclassified as Research Assistants, but this will not affect the stipend. Holders of Fellowships or grant-supported Research Assistantships may need to make arrangements based on the special terms of their awards.

The Research Semester can be taken at most once during the course of study, preferably during the spring term (when there are fewer classes to be taught by graduate students). The student must have an invitation from an individual professor at the university to be visited. The invitation should clearly indicate that

1. The host is willing to work actively with the student on his/her research area.
2. The student is covered by the benefits usually given to visiting scientists and researchers by the host department, such as office space and access to libraries and computers.
3. The host is willing to assist in finding housing for the student.
4. The host is willing to assist in obtaining a visa (if necessary) for the visiting student.

The student must propose a plan of study and research for his or her Research Semester which has to be approved by the dissertation advisor and the Graduate Director. Also, the student must attach to the proposed plan of study a letter from the Office of International Programs stating that he or she has appropriate health insurance coverage at the host institution.

The Research Semester is *subject to approval by the Department Chair*, who may have to limit the number of eligible students per semester according to the Department's teaching needs. A student planning a Research Semester Off Campus should ask his or her dissertation adviser to speak as far in advance as possible with the Graduate Director and the Department Chair.