

Alfred P. Sloan Foundation – UPRM Ph.D. Enrichment Program

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Program Objectives

The objective of Alfred P. Sloan Foundation – UPRM Ph.D. Enrichment Program is to develop strong research collaborations with world class laboratories to continue the advancement of the eight Ph.D. programs at UPRM, and their positive impact on students and society. In this manner we seek to enrich the education of outstanding Ph.D. students through internships in world class research laboratories, where they would spend a minimum of 4 – 6 months.

However, with the current Covid-19 pandemic it is unlikely that we will have student travel in the near future.

Thus, eight research assistantships will be funded at UPRM during the coming year to catalyze student progress towards their Ph.D. degrees.

Request for Proposals for Research Assistantships

The objective of the Sloan Research Assistantships is to allow students to focus on research and progress towards Ph.D. The selected students will not have teaching responsibilities (teaching assistantships) while receiving the research assistantships. Proposals from all Puerto Rico Ph.D. graduate students at UPRM will be considered. The program cannot fund international students.

We look forward to receiving proposals for students at all stages of their graduate career. All proposals should show how the 12 months of a research assistantship would help students advance to the Ph.D.

We will fund eight student research assistantships for up to \$25,000 per year during the coming year. The following budget distribution is suggested:

Research Assistantship	\$20,400	\$1700 for up 12 months.
Health Insurance (Basic Pharmaceutical Plan)	\$1112	One year
Supplementary	\$3,488	Payment of University tuition, supplies, or instrument repair.

The distribution of these funds could vary, but students must remain with a research assistantship for 12 months. Professors may request modifications of these distributions, but not exceeding \$25,000 per student.

The research advisor will request assistantships for their students by nominating a student by **Friday May 14** to rodolfoj.romanach@upr.edu. **The goal is to start the assistantships in June 2021.** The nomination will:

- Provide a brief summary of the student’s progress in research, and why the student deserves the assistantship. Provide a timeline towards the student’s Ph.D. program completion. Explain whether the student has completed the courses towards Ph.D. or is a candidate? How many years has the student being in the program?
- Describe student’s current financial support and propose budget for the assistantship.
- Describe the resources, equipment, supplies available to the student to advance to the Ph.D. while focusing on research.
- Describe the research laboratory environment. Indicate when the research group was started and how many graduate students have completed their degrees.
- Indicate how many undergraduate students are being mentored by the graduate student and their role.
- Describe the research laboratories with which the professor or student are collaborating, including external research laboratories. Indicate whether there a possibility of collaborating with a major research laboratory in the future, an opportunity which would provide enrich the student’s development through a new environment.