

# Summertime for Advancement in Research (S.T.A.R.)

Department of Communication & Journalism  
Texas A & M University

## Overview

The Department of Communication & Journalism STAR program aims to advance graduate student quality and climate by encouraging timely graduation of doctoral students. To achieve this goal, STAR employment offers recipients three months of summer employment and structured mentoring for concentrated research writing and related activities. Students receiving this honor must make a full-time commitment to research in coordination with their advisor. They will be required to develop a program on dissertation writing for professionalization week, write a research narrative for COMM marketing materials, and present a research colloquium in the following academic year.

The Department of Communication of Journalism will select at least one STAR recipient for summer employment and all STAR employment offers are made on a competitive basis.

**All application materials should be submitted via email to Silvia Martinez ([smartinez1@tamu.edu](mailto:smartinez1@tamu.edu)) by March 1.**

Late submissions will not be considered.

## Eligibility

- Applicants must be full-time CMJR doctoral student in good standing at the time of application.
- Applicants must have been employed on CMJR graduate assistantship during the semester of application.
- Applicants must have passed their preliminary examination at the time of nomination.
- Recipients must have a successfully defended dissertation proposal by May 15.

## Application Requirements

Applicants should submit the following items:

- 1-page single-spaced dissertation research statement. Statement should describe focus, projected scholarly/practical contribution of dissertation, potential impact of STAR employment, and estimated timeline of completion.
- Current CV (no longer than 3 pages)
- Letter of support from advisor/committee chair

## Review Criteria

Applications will be evaluated according to the following criteria:

- Significance of the dissertation project.
- Record of student progress toward degree completion.

- Impact of STAR funding for the student's development of the project.
- Qualifications of the student to successfully defend the dissertation within 1 year of the award.
- Professional presentation, completeness, and clarity of submitted application.