Endowment for Academic Excellence

This endowed fund gives MIIS faculty members the opportunity to hire students as Graduate Research Assistants (GRAs), supporting faculty scholarship and deepening student engagement and learning. GRAs assist with research and analysis, writing and editing for publications, and applications for grants from external funders, among other tasks.

Student positions can be posted as federal and/or Institute work-study and are limited to currently enrolled students. Faculty members are responsible for posting and filling the position(s) in collaboration with Student Financial Services. General hiring rules, regulations, and processes apply.

2018/2019 Awardees:

Netta Avineri  
TESOL/TFL  
Interculturality, language education, and language and social justice

Jason Blazakis  
NPTS  
ISIS Immigration and Logistics

Alaina Brandter  
TLM  
Identification of core competencies for localization project managers

Paige Butler  
IEM  
Cultural Transitions: Enhancing Student Learning and Development in Education Abroad

Anne Campbell  
IEM  
Professional trajectories of international scholarship alumni in Ghana & Nigeria

Michel Gueldry  
French Language  
Climate Change Decision Making at the Individual, Organizational and Governmental Level
Gabriel Guillen  
TESOL/TFL

Team Tandem Assessment - Learning Outcomes from Spanish in the Community (Salinas)

Pushpa Iyer  
DPP/Conflict Studies

Allies at MIIS campus events and communications

Deniz Ortactepe  
TESOL/TFL

Language socialization processes of migrant farm workers’ children in Salinas, California - identity construction and language development

Katherine Pumentey  
IEM

Principles and Practices of International Education (textbook)

Wei Liang  
ITED

China’s Economic Statecraft (edited volume)

David Wick  
IEM

1) Latinx first generation college students studying abroad
2) Impacts of diversity- and access-oriented study abroad scholarships

Don Sciglimpaglia  
MBA

Two business case studies:
1) The global wine industry
2) Construction practices in Saudi Arabia
Faculty Feedback & Outcomes:

“I am considerably grateful for this support. My research looks at the ways that international students from the Global South impact their home countries after pursuing a degree abroad (mostly in the US). My research lately has focused on the countries of Ghana and Nigeria. These awards have allowed me to partner with 3 graduate students at MIIS over two years and has led to two papers and two conferences presentations scheduled for 2019.

And there is more to come! We have 2-3 additional papers in the pipeline. I am grateful for this opportunity! Thank you.”

– Anne Campbell

“This funding allowed me to hire an outstanding TESOL student as a GRA. She conducted extensive literature reviews, engaged in book market research, and wrote a research report on youth and immigration policies in Gonzales, CA. She also helped lay the groundwork for a new grant-funded project focused on Hebrew education in supplementary schools.

I am sincerely appreciative of the donor’s support of graduate research assistants at MIIS. Due to this generous funding, the student learns a great deal about research and I as a faculty member have the ongoing support I need to contribute productively within my professional spheres. Thank you so much!”

– Netta Avineri

“The professional practice of localization and translation management requires a complex skillset. Currently no industry-wide core competencies for that professional practice have been standardized. My research is centered upon achieving that standardization.

The award has allowed me to accelerate research related to that aim, including in the current state of localization education in the United States and regarding the skills required by employers. We’d like to thank the donor for their contribution to this project and for their encouragement.”

- Alaina Brandt