



**Graduate Research Assistantship Opening
Office of Innovation Management
Rural Economic Development & Innovation Initiative (REDII)**

The Office of Innovation Management invites applications from graduate students pursuing a master's degree to fill the following applied graduate research assistantship position for the **Spring and Summer 2026**.

The Louisiana Entrepreneurship & Economic Development (LEED) Center invites applications from graduate students for an applied Graduate Assistantship supporting the Rural Economic Development & Innovation Initiative (REDII). The LEED Center, housed within the B.I. Moody III College of Business Administration at the University of Louisiana at Lafayette, advances innovation, entrepreneurship, and economic development through research, programming, and community engagement. This position will provide direct operational and technical support for the REDII Small-Scale Manufacturing Lab and associated rural entrepreneurship programming.

Primary Duties and Responsibilities:

- Support program planning, coordination, and implementation aligned with REDII's rural entrepreneurship and small-scale manufacturing focus.
- Assist with data collection, reporting, and documentation of program outcomes and grant deliverables.
- Coordinate communications with students, faculty, entrepreneurs, and community partners.
- Provide logistical and administrative support for events, workshops, Roadshows, and meetings.
- Contribute to research, grant-related activities, or strategic initiatives as appropriate.

Specific to the REDII Lab, the graduate student appointed to this role will:

- Assist with day-to-day operation of the REDII Small-Scale Manufacturing Lab, including scheduling, basic setup, and supervision during open lab sessions and workshops.
- Support safe operation and basic troubleshooting of fabrication equipment, including:
 - FDM and resin 3D printers
 - Laser cutters and engravers
 - Desktop CNC machines

- Help maintain equipment usage logs, material inventories, and consumables tracking in support of grant reporting and sustainability planning.
- Assist with lab orientation and basic training for students, entrepreneurs, and community users under staff supervision.
- Support prototype development activities, including file preparation, basic CAD/CAM workflows, and post-processing tasks.
- Assist with setup and teardown for mobile demonstrations and REDII Entrepreneurship & Innovation Roadshow events.

Eligibility and Additional Considerations:

Students pursuing a master's degree in the fields of Engineering, Sciences, Architecture, and Business are eligible to apply. Consideration may be given to graduate students pursuing another degree program with a research focus with direct connection to the duties described above.

Applicants must be UL Lafayette graduate students in good academic standing who have been admitted unconditionally.

Additional preferred qualifications include:

- Experience with digital fabrication tools, such as:
 - 3D printing (FDM and/or resin)
 - Laser cutting / engraving
 - Desktop CNC machining
- Familiarity with CAD or design software (e.g., Fusion, SolidWorks, Illustrator, Inkscape, or similar).
- Basic understanding of makerspace or fab lab operations, including safety practices and equipment workflows.
- Experience supporting hands-on workshops, labs, or technical training environments.
- Comfort working with entrepreneurs, students, and community members with varied technical backgrounds.
- Strong organizational skills and attention to detail for equipment tracking, documentation, and reporting.
- Interest in rural economic development, entrepreneurship, innovation, or applied manufacturing.

Appointment also **requires full-time graduate enrollment** and **completion of 20 hours of in-person, on-campus** duties each week during the academic terms. Appointment does not require completion of duties when classes are not in session (i.e., during intercessions and student breaks).

Continuation of the appointment beyond Summer 2026 is contingent upon successful completion of assistantship duties, satisfactory progress toward degree, and/or budgetary considerations.

If an international graduate student, your visa status may place restrictions on your employment eligibility; if you are not certain if your visa status permits holding an assistantship, contact the Office of International Affairs in the Division of Global Engagement.

Compensation:

Compensation includes a waiver of tuition and mandatory fees, plus a monthly stipend that adheres to University minimum levels. Assistantship stipend and tuition/fee waiver benefits will be prorated to start date.

- For the 2025-2026 academic year, the minimum stipend is \$1,150 per month for master's students, totaling \$11,500 paid over ten months.
- The value of tuition/fee waiver for an academic-year assistantship in 2025-2026 is at least \$11,202 for U.S. resident graduate students and \$27,674 for non-resident international graduate students enrolled in 9 graduate credit hours per semester. For students taking more credits, this benefit is even higher.
- The accompanying fee waiver does not cover 100% of the supplemental insurance fee for international students on F-1, J-1, or other non-immigrant visas.

To Apply:

To apply, complete this form: <https://forms.microsoft.com/r/Wj9i5nHy3M>. Questions should be directed to Kevin Guillory, at leedcenter@louisiana.edu

To ensure full consideration, apply by January 27. Review of applications will begin at that time and will continue until the position is filled.