

Western Association of Graduate Schools (WAGS)/ University Microfilms International (UMI) Award Nominations



Procedure Number: 303.40
Date Adopted: 4/29/09
Last Revision: 3/7/12
Reference: WAGS/UMI Call for Nominations
Approved by: Graduate Council

The Western Association of Graduate Schools (WAGS) and University Microfilms International (UMI) offer two awards (Distinguished master's Thesis Award and the Innovation in Technology Award) each year.

The call for nomination, published by WAGS in late April of each year, includes eligibility requirements and guidelines. The University may forward one nomination per award. The University's Nomination must be submitted to WAGS by late August. Students eligible for the award will have received their Masters degree within the period of July 1 of the previous academic year and June 30 of the current academic year.

The Graduate School sends out the call for nominations, and application materials to Graduate Program Directors. Each graduate program may select one graduate student for consideration for nomination by the Graduate School. Applications must be received, as electronic documents, by the Graduate School on or before the Monday of the second week in July.

Applications will be reviewed by Associate Provost for Graduate Education and the Associate Dean of the Graduate School, who may draw on appropriate expertise if available, to select a candidate for nomination to WAGS/UMI.

Nomination materials supplied by the Associate Provost for Graduate Education to WAGS will include:

- a. An original plus eight copies of the written nomination letter from the Graduate Dean cited in the Eligibility Requirements above. The letter should describe the process that was used to select the thesis for nomination.
- b. An original plus eight copies of a *non-technical* summary prepared by the student (1000-1500 words) describing the research and its significance for a general academic audience of non-specialists.
- c. An original plus eight copies of the table of contents for the nominated thesis.
- d. An original plus eight copies of the letter from the department head or major professor and one additional faculty member. The letters should include information regarding the significance of the thesis, the contribution of the thesis to the program of the degree granting unit, and the impact of the thesis on the knowledge base of the discipline.
- e. A CV or resume from the student nominee

Applications shall be evaluated according to the following criteria:

- f. Originality
- g. Significance of the study
- h. Overall quality
- i. Outcomes and accomplishments from the thesis