2016-2017 WAGS/UMI Distinguished Master’s Thesis Award for Humanities, Social Sciences, Education, and Business

and the

2016-2017 WAGS/UMI Distinguished Master’s Thesis Award for the Biological Sciences, Mathematical and Physical Sciences, Life Sciences and Engineering

The WAGS/UMI Distinguished Master’s Thesis Awards recognize distinguished scholarly achievement at the master’s level in either the non-STEM areas (for Humanities, Social Sciences, Education, and Business) or the STEM areas (for the Biological Sciences, Mathematical and Physical Sciences, Life Sciences and Engineering).

Nominations for either of the two awards will be accepted in any of the above-listed disciplines in which the institution offers a master’s degree.

The scholarly “product” eligible for this competition is a formal written thesis. If a nominating department offers both a thesis option and a project option, only the thesis is acceptable for consideration for this award. The Award is granted by the Western Association of Graduate Schools (WAGS) and is sponsored by UMI (University Microfilms International). The award consists of a certificate of award, $1,000 to the recipient, and travel expenses for the student and the student’s advisor to receive the award at the annual meeting of the Association.

Guidelines

The nominee must have earned the master’s degree within the period July 1, 2015, through June 30, 2016. Nomination materials must include:

a. 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.

b. Letters 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.

c. A cv or resume from the student nominee.

Initial screening will be based on four criteria: originality; significance of the study; overall quality, and outcomes and accomplishments from the thesis.

Nomination Procedure

Each eligible department may submit one nomination (per award, if applicable) award to the FGSR by Friday, August 12, 2016. The FGSR will adjudicate all nominations received and forward one nomination to the WAGS National Office by the WAGS deadline of September 5, 2016. Successful nominees will be notified directly by WAGS.