

The IGERT Apprentice program

Guidelines for Apprentices

In an effort to help new PhD students to become more integrated into interdisciplinary language science research, and to facilitate development of an innovative research training plan, Maryland's IGERT program in language science is introducing a new participant status, the IGERT Apprenticeship. Students who plan to submit a training plan to become a full IGERT program participant in the Spring semester of the current year are eligible to become an IGERT Apprentice.

Apprentices are expected to become fully involved in program activities such as Winter Storm and the outreach program, in just the same way as full participants, and Apprentices may also use program resources and apply for support for their research activities. The primary difference is that whereas full participants carry out an interdisciplinary training plan that they have already designed, Apprentices work on developing a training plan over the course of the year. IGERT Apprentices will benefit from additional mentoring from faculty and more experienced graduate students, which should aid the process of developing a plan that is both innovative and feasible.

To apply, send an email to Csilla Kajtar (ckajtar@umd.edu <ckajtar@umd.edu>) indicating interest to become an IGERT Apprentice and including PDF copies of a current CV and unofficial transcript (a copy downloaded from Testudo is sufficient). The student's advisor should also send an electronic letter to confirm that s/he understands this, and supports the students' plan to (a) become fully involved in program activities, and (b) to develop a full program proposal in time for the annual March due date.

Students are encouraged to declare their interest in becoming an IGERT Apprentice as early as possible, preferably by the end of the Fall semester. The later that a student applies, the fewer benefits are available to the student.

Being an IGERT Apprentice is not a requirement for submitting a full application but it is expected that the systematic involvement in program activities and timely preparation of the IGERT training plan will set students up for a successful application. Students can hold the apprenticeship status for one year only.

Please note that the introduction of the IGERT Apprenticeship does not remove the IGERT Affiliate participant status. The IGERT Affiliate category is more flexible, has fewer requirements, and is mainly designed for students who wish to be informed of activities, involved as much as their time permits, but will likely not apply for full participant status.

Guidelines for Mentors

Along with faculty, student Mentors will play an essential role in the IGERT Apprentice program by being available for questions, familiarizing Apprentices with the requirements of the IGERT program, and guiding them through the development of a training plan. Experienced IGERT students are all encouraged to serve as Mentors. The IGERT program administration will contact each student and match him or her with the new Apprentices. The time commitment is minimal while the service is invaluable through its potential to improve the quality of the program.