

THE RINKER SCHOLAR PROGRAM FOR PH.D. STUDENTS

INTRODUCTION

Since its inception, in 1935, the Rinker School has led the construction management profession in its journey to professionalization. With the dawning of the new millennium, the construction management profession finds itself at the threshold of its final and most important step toward professionalization. This final step involves the fostering of sustained efforts in research and development, in order to bring innovation to the profession and keep it vibrant.

A majority of the research in the US takes place in Universities and affiliated institutions, mostly by faculty holding doctoral or equivalent terminal degrees and usually sponsored by private companies or governmental agencies. In the US, there are about 60 construction management academic programs accredited by The American Council for Construction Education. Most of the faculty members in these programs have only a Master's degree and meet the ACCE requirement to have 5 or more years of relevant construction supervisory experience.

In order to foster research in these academic programs, the best and the brightest of these faculty members should be encouraged to earn a Ph.D. in construction management. A successful model that has been used by other professions is based on the academic institution granting the faculty member a paid 2-3 year sabbatical leave and funding to pursue a Ph.D. While the faculty member makes a written commitment to return to work for a given number of years after completion of the degree.

Few, if any of the Associated Schools of Construction (ASC) members, especially those with small faculty numbers, can afford to lose a faculty member with full pay for 2-3 years and still maintain the required level of academic course offerings for their students.

PROGRAM

The M.E. Rinker, Sr. Foundation has funded the establishment of a Rinker Scholar endowment that would be used to support ASC faculty to pursue a Ph.D. in Construction Management at the Rinker School of Building Construction. The intent of the Rinker Scholar program is to form a partnership between the University of Florida, the Rinker School, a given ASC academic program and its faculty member to facilitate that faculty member's pursuit of a Ph.D. degree in construction management. The income from the Rinker Scholar endowment will be devoted to helping fellow ASC schools enhance the quality of the education they offer, while increasing construction research.

CONTRIBUTIONS

The contributions by each of the members of this partnership are shown in Tables 1 and 2.

Table 1. Rinker Scholarship Fund Contributions

Entity	Contributions
Faculty/Student	• Time and Effort to Complete Degree
ASC Academic Unit	• One Semester Paid Sabbatical Leave (\$35 to \$40 k)
University of Florida	• Tuition Waiver to Cover Cost Differential
Between In-and Out of State Tuition (\$18 K) Rinker Scholar	• \$30 K Fellowship • In-State Tuition for 36 Graduate Credits (\$9 K)
Rinker Scholar Faculty Mentor	• \$6 K Faculty Chair Research Expense Account

Table 2. Plan of Study Schedule and Budget Contributions⁺

Course Schedule	ASC Faculty/ Student ⁺⁺	Employer (ASC Acad. Unit)	U.F.	Rinker Scholar Endowment	
Summer C DCP 7794 Doctoral Seminar 1 Cr. DCP 7979 Dissertation Res. 5 Cr. BCN Graduate Courses 6 Cr. 12 Cr.	• Meals and Lodging \$3,000 • (Tax Credits)		• Out-of-State and In-State Tuition Waiver Differential for 12 Cr. Hrs	• In-State Tuition for 12 Cr. Hrs. \$3,000 • \$6,000 Fellowship	
Fall DCP 7990 Doctoral Core I 3 Cr. BCN 6036 Research Methods 3 Cr. BCN Graduate Class 3 Cr. DCP Graduate Class 3 Cr. 12 Cr.	• Meals and Lodging \$4,000 • (Tax Credits)	• Full, Paid Sabbatical \$30-35,000	• Out-of-State and In-State Tuition Waiver Differential for 12 Cr. Hrs	• In-State Tuition for 12 Cr. Hrs. \$3,000 • \$8,000 Fellowship	
Spring ICM Distance Ed. Classes 9 Cr.	• Tuition \$5,400 • (Tax Credits)				
Summer C DCP 7979 Dissertation Res. 6 Cr. ** BCN Graduate Classes 6 Cr. 12 Cr.	• Meals and Lodging \$3,000 • (Tax Credits)		• Out-of-State and In-State Tuition Waiver Differential for 12 Cr. Hrs	• In-State Tuition for 12 Cr. Hrs. \$3,000 • \$6,000 Fellowship	
Fall DCP 7979/7980 Dis. Res. 6 Cr. Ph.D. Candidacy Exam	• Tuition \$3,600 • (Tax Credits)				
Spring DCP 7980 Dissertation Res. 3 Cr.	• Tuition \$1,800 • (Tax Credits)				
Summer C DCP 7980 Dissertation Res. 3 Cr.	• Tuition \$1,800 • (Tax Credits)				
Fall DCP 7980 Dissertation Res. 3 Cr. Ph.D. Final Exams	• Tuition \$1,800 • (Tax Credits)			• \$10,000 Graduation Fellowship (due upon completion of degree) • \$6,000 Faculty Chair Research Expense Account	
TOTALS	60 Cr. Hrs.	Tuition \$14,400 M & L \$10,000 \$24,400 (Tax Credits)	Sabbatical \$30-35K	36 Cr. Hrs. \$18,000	\$45,000

**Students who have not had two graduate level statistics classes may take them at their home institution and transfer them in lieu of these 6 Graduate Credits.

++ Tuition, Meals and Lodging are best estimates of the actual cost and may vary based on the time of enrollment.

Table 3. Program Advantages

Entity	Advantages
ASC Faculty/Student	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Earn a Ph.D. in 2-3 Years• Personal Development to Establish a Research Agenda
ASC Academic Unit	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Enhanced Quality of Instruction• Enhanced Quality and Quantity of Research
University of Florida	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Enhanced Reputation For Quality Graduate Programs.• Increase in Graduate PhD
Rinker Scholar	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Enhanced Reputation in Graduate Education• Increase Stature in the Industry
Construction Industry	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Development of a critical mass of Researchers who understand industry problems and are able to contribute to their solutions

APPLICATION

For the application process, see the doctoral studies handbook available at the website or on request from Dr Ian Flood (email: flood@ufl.edu).

APPLICATION DOCUMENTS

1. A University of Florida Graduate School Application form.
2. A minimum, 15-page, double spaced Ph.D. dissertation research proposal, including a completion schedule.
3. A statement of Support and commitment from the Applicant's Academic Unit.
4. Academic Transcripts for all previous work.
5. Summary Compilation of Student evaluations for the 3 years preceding the application.
6. Letters of recommendation from Applicant's former Master's committee chair, current College Dean, and at least one current or past colleague.
7. Detailed Resume.
8. GRE Scores (a minimum, cumulative score of 1200 on the Verbal and Quantitative sections is required)

ADMISSIONS PROCESS

1. All application materials are due by December 31st of each year.
2. Up to 2 applicants will be selected each year.
3. The selected applicants will have 2 weeks to accept their admission once they have been notified, otherwise the opportunity may be passed on to another applicant.