

New Opportunity for Deaf Graduate Students

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The National Technical Institute for the Deaf (NTID), a college of Rochester Institute of Technology (RIT), has announced a new Professional Fellowship Program designed to increase opportunities in technical and professional employment for deaf and hard-of-hearing individuals. NTID will make fellowship appointments every academic year to two qualified graduate students pursuing a master's degree at RIT. The appointments will include a full tuition waiver, a \$15,000 annual stipend, and, in some circumstances, free on-campus housing.

While attending the master's program of their choice, students will receive on-the-job training through part-time employment in positions such as teaching assistant, dormitory advisor, student advisor, community service coordinator, program analyst, tutor, or in another area of designated need. In most cases, students will be considered for full-time employment at NTID upon successful completion of the program.

"We developed this program to provide an opportunity for deaf and hard-of-hearing students to pursue their graduate degree while also gaining valuable work experience," explains Dianne Brooks, acting director of NTID's Center for Outreach.

"At the same time, these graduate students will serve as positive role models for our deaf and hard-of-hearing undergraduate students, who will benefit from seeing individuals like themselves who are successful in their chosen fields."

In order to qualify for the Professional Fellowship Program, students must have a bachelor's degree from an accredited postsecondary educational institution and must supply official proof of acceptance into the graduate program of study at RIT to which they have applied. Applicants to the program are also required to submit a resume that details their employment history and related experience. Students who wish to be considered for a fellowship can obtain additional information and an application by contacting NTID's Department of Recruitment and Admissions at 716-475-6700 (Voice/TTY), <http://www.rit.edu/NTID>.