Every graduate student reaches a point when they must intensely focus on the research that is the core of their dissertation or thesis. The Research Accelerator Award was created to assist students with their research expenses so they may advance in their goal to complete their degree.

Through the Research Accelerator program, the donor makes a gift of $5,000 and the Graduate Division adds $3,000 to create a stipend of $8,000. Students utilize the funding for travel, specialized equipment and software, and to collect and analyze data. For example, a Linguistics graduate student may need to buy recording equipment to capture a spoken language, purchase airline tickets and pay for housing at a research site.

Alumni Carolyn and Terry Gannon met with their student recipient, Chia-Chien Chang. Carolyn commented, “The time we spent together was very stimulating and fun. Chia-Chien has a lot of energy, interest in discussion, and embracing others’ additional thoughts. It couldn’t have been a nicer day.”

After the student completes their research, the donor is invited to meet with them and discuss the results of their research experience. This is a unique opportunity to become acquainted with a talented scholar and learn about the life and studies of a current UC Santa Barbara graduate student.