About Fellowships for Underrepresented Groups

The fellowships listed below seek to promote diversity in particular fields or career paths by offering funding to individuals from underrepresented groups for some aspect of their graduate research or training. **Note that eligibility rules vary widely according to the aims of the sponsoring organization and/or the target academic field.** Some awards are open only to one specific group, while others may be open to a wide array of different groups. In addition, which groups count as “underrepresented” can vary by academic field. When researching awards, always pay close attention the eligibility criteria at the program’s web site to make sure the award is a match for you. Information provided here is only a summary and does not cover detailed eligibility requirements.

Doctoral students (and MFA candidates) should especially note the existence of “in residence” dissertation completion / postdoctoral / post-MFA fellowships for underrepresented minorities. These fellowships typically provide a year-long salaried residency at a well-regarded small college (often a prestigious small liberal arts college) where the applicant will complete their dissertation or undertake postdoctoral / post-MFA work while teaching a reduced course load and participating in the intellectual life of the campus. These awards, which are listed in a separate section at the end of this document, offer excellent opportunities for doctoral and MFA candidates set on academic or teaching careers.

Deadlines vary by award. Many competitions span several months, and applications can require – at a minimum – six to eight weeks to complete. Interested students are encouraged to plan far ahead and discuss their plans with their faculty mentors and the Director of Graduate Fellowships.

Finally, please note that this is neither an exhaustive list, nor something applicants should feel limited by. **ALL fellowship programs – not just those specifically targeted at underrepresented groups – value racial, ethnic, gender, and economic diversity, as well as diversity in life experience, and all competitions hope to see a diverse array of candidates in their applicant pools.** Students are encouraged to learn how to seek out all available opportunities pertinent to their academic and professional interests and goals.
AAUW Selected Professions Fellowships (American Association of University Women)
http://www.aauw.org/what-we-do/educational-funding-and-awards/selected-professions-fellowships/
Selected Professions Fellowships are awarded to women who are U.S. citizens or permanent residents and who intend to pursue a full-time course of study at accredited U.S. institutions during the fellowship year in one of the designated degree programs where women’s participation traditionally has been low: Architecture (M.Arch, M.S.Arch); Computer/Information Sciences (M.S.); Engineering (M.E., M.S.); and Mathematics/Statistics (M.S.) Some additional fields are also open to women of color – see web site for details. Awards range from $5,000 - $18,000. Application deadline: January. The AAUW offers other fellowships open to a broader range of academic fields through the American Fellowships and International Fellowships program for more information: http://www.aauw.org/what-we-do/educational-funding-and-awards/

AERA Minority Dissertation Fellowship in Education Research
http://www.aera.net/professionalopportunitiesfunding/fundingopportunities/aeraminoritydissertationfellowshipprogram/tabid/10243/default.aspx
Support for outstanding minority students to undertake dissertation research relating to education. Student need not be in an Education program, but dissertation topic must relate to education. $19,000 for one year plus $1,000 for travel to AERA professional conference. Supplemental awards are allowed. Open to US citizens and permanent residents who are African Americans, Alaska Natives, American Indians, Hispanics/Latinos, and Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islanders. Deadline: Early November. AERA offers other funding opportunities as well: http://www.aera.net/professionalopportunitiesfunding/aerafundingopportunities/tabid/10241/default.aspx

American Indian College Fund Full Circle Scholarships
http://www.collegefund.org/students_and_alumni/content/graduate_special_scholarships
The American Indian College Fund offers several scholarships for graduate and professional students who are U.S. citizens of American Indian descent. See web site for details of awards offered. Applications open annually in January and deadline is in May; early application recommended.

APSA Minority Fellows Program (Political Science)
http://oldapsa.apsanet.org/content_3284.cfm?navID=44
The APSA Minority Fellows program supports PhD students in political science from under-represented groups, with special emphasis on candidates who show the potential for a career in the research and teaching of political science. The applicant must be a U.S. citizen and a member of one of the following racial/ethnic minority groups: African Americans, Asian Pacific Americans, Latinos/as, and Native Americans (federal and state recognized tribes.) Award is a $4,000 stipend. Deadline: October. APSA lists additional resources for minority scholars at its web site: http://oldapsa.apsanet.org/content_11662.cfm?navID=46

ASA Minority Fellowship Program (Sociology)
http://www.asanet.org/funding/mfp.cfm
Support for students from underrepresented groups (Black/African American, Latino/Hispanic, Asian and Pacific Islander, American Indian and Alaska Native) who are pursuing a PhD in Sociology. Applicants must have completed one full academic year in the Ph.D. in Sociology program at the time of application and must be a U.S. citizen/national or permanent resident from one of the above-listed groups. Award is $18,000 (plus assistance with tuition/fees and other support) for 12 months. Deadline: Late January.

Asian Pacific American Institute for Congressional Studies (APAICS) Fellowship Program
http://apaics.org/programs/fellowships/
The APAICS Fellowships offers Asian and Pacific American students a one-year placement in a professional development fellowship dealing with legislative and public policy relating the Asian and Pacific American issues in Washington D.C. Applicants must have a bachelor’s degree or higher in hand at the time of application, and may be continuing graduate students or recent alumni of a master’s or doctoral program. Deadline: March.
Congressional Black Caucus Foundation Scholarships
http://www.cbcfinc.org/cbcf-scholarships.html
The Congressional Black Caucus Foundation offers scholarships in the areas of Performing Arts, Education, and Environmental Studies. Deadlines fall in May annually.

Charles B. Rangel International Affairs Program
http://www.rangelprogram.org/index.cfm?session.areaid=2&contentid=672&typeid=CBRIAP92223
The Rangel Graduate Fellowship is a program that aims to attract and prepare outstanding young people for careers in the U.S. Foreign Service. Each year, the program selects 20 fellows and helps support them through two years of graduate study, internships and professional development activities, followed by entry into the Foreign Service. This program encourages the application of members of minority groups historically underrepresented in the Foreign Service, and those with financial need. Fellows who successfully complete the program and Foreign Service entry requirements will receive appointments as U.S. Foreign Service Officers. Note that candidates apply for this award concurrent with application to a master’s program. Students already enrolled in a graduate program are not eligible.

Congressional Hispanic Caucus Institute (CHCI) Graduate Fellowship Program
http://www.chci.org/fellowships/page/chci-graduate-fellowship-program
This nine-month paid fellowship program offers exceptional Latinos who have earned a master’s degree (or higher) within three years of the program start date the opportunity to gain hands-on experience in the public policy areas of higher education, secondary education, health, housing, law, and STEM fields. The fellowship consists of placements in policy-making positions in Washington D.C. and offers salary, benefits, and professional development/networking opportunities.

Congressional Hispanic Caucus Institute (CHCI) Public Policy Fellowship Program
http://www.chci.org/fellowships/page/chci-public-policy-fellowship
This program offers talented Latinos who have earned a bachelor’s degree within two years of the program start date a paid, nine-month paid fellowship consisting of a work placement in Washington D.C., where the fellow will gain hands-on experience at the national level in the public policy area of their choice. The fellowship includes salary, benefits, and professional development/networking opportunities for candidates between undergraduate and graduate school (or career).

Donald M. Payne International Development Fellowship Program (USAID)
http://www.paynefellows.org/
The USAID Donald M. Payne International Development Graduate Fellowship Program seeks to attract outstanding young people who are interested in pursuing careers in the Foreign Service of the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID). This program encourages the application of members of minority groups historically underrepresented in the Foreign Service, and those with financial need. The fellowship provides up to $90,000 in benefits over two years for graduate school, internships, and professional development activities. Fellowship recipients can use the award to attend U.S. graduate programs throughout the country; they will join the USAID Foreign Service upon completion of the program, as long as they successfully complete the Payne Program and USAID entry requirements. Note that candidates apply for this award concurrent with application to a master’s program. Students already enrolled in a graduate program are not eligible. Deadline falls in January.

Ford Foundation Fellowship Program
http://sites.nationalacademies.org/PGA/FordFellowships/index.htm
Pre-Doctoral, Dissertation, and Post-Doctoral awards for PhD and Sc.D students intending academic careers as scholars and teachers. This award is open to US citizens in most fields of study. The award aims to promote diversity in higher education by funding candidates: (a) Who are a member of an under-represented minority, including Alaska Natives, Black/African Americans, Mexican Americans, Native American Indians, Native Pacific Islanders, and Puerto Ricans. (b) Whose research and career aims demonstrate a likelihood of using the diversity of human experience as an educational resource in teaching and scholarship.
Graduate Women in Science (GWIS)
http://gwis.org/national-fellowships-program/
GWIS makes awards supporting women to do research in the sciences at the graduate student and assistant professor level. Award maximum is $10,000 in support of research costs. Deadline: January.

Hispanic Scholarship Fund
http://www.hsf.net/CollegeScholarships.aspx
The Hispanic Scholarship Fund offers fellowships and scholarships for students at all levels, including graduate students, of Hispanic and Latino descent. Deadlines vary by award.

MALDEF Scholarship Programs
http://www.maldef.org/leadership/scholarships/index.html
MALDEF (Mexican American Legal Defense and Educational Fund) is a civil rights organization that advocates on behalf of the Latino community in the United States. This organization currently offers two scholarship awards, one for law students ($5,000; deadline in January), and one for student activists at either the undergraduate or graduate level who advocate for the Dream Act ($5,000; deadline in July.) MALDEF also publishes a scholarship guide with listings of other scholarships for Latino students, which may be downloaded from their website.

NASA Harriett Jenkins Pre-Doctoral Fellowship Program
http://www.uncfsp.org/jpfp
Three years of financial support for U.S. citizen graduate students from groups that are under-represented in NASA-related STEM fields (including women, minorities, and the disabled.) Both Master's and PhD level candidates are considered, but applicant must be within the first three years of graduate study.

NIH Ruth Kirschstein National Research Service Awards (F31 Grants)
http://grants.nih.gov/training/nrsa.htm
The NRSA / Kirschstein Fellowships are prestigious awards to support individual pre-doctoral research training among Ph.D. students in biomedical, behavioral, or health service fields (including Nursing). The suite of competitions run under this program includes an initiative to promote diversity in health-related research through awards to individuals from underrepresented groups (African Americans, Hispanic Americans, Native Americans, Alaska Natives and natives of the U.S. Pacific Islands, and persons with disabilities.) Students intending to apply to this competition must work closely with an academic mentor familiar with the funding mechanism.

Paul and Daisy Soros Fellowship for New Americans
http://www.pdsoros.org/competition/
The Soros Fellowship supports students who are recent immigrants (e.g. naturalized citizens of the U.S.) or the children of recent immigrants for graduate study in the United States. All fields are eligible, but student must not be beyond their second year of graduate study in their chosen field.

SREB-State Doctoral Scholars Program (Southern Regional Education Board)
http://www.sreb.org/page/1074/doctoral_scholars.html
PLEASE NOTE: Applicants intending to use this award at George Mason University must inform their intended academic unit AND the Office of Graduate Fellowships of their intentions at the time the application is submitted and when an award is offered. Failure to do so may impact GMU’s ability to support these students. SREB is a regional award open to Ph.D. students at a limited number of eligible universities, including George Mason University. Two types of fellowship are offered: The Doctoral Award supports new Ph.D. students (applying for admission or in their first year of Ph.D. program) for 3-5 years of doctoral program study, including tuition and stipend. The Dissertation Award is a one-year award (tuition and stipend) for students who have been advanced to doctoral candidacy and are working on their dissertation. The award is open to U.S. citizens and permanent residents who are members of a racial or ethnic minority and plan to become a full-time college or university faculty member after earning the Ph.D. Open to most fields, see web site for details. Deadline: March 1.

Dr. Kathryn E. Ágoston, Director of Graduate Fellowships, George Mason University
kagoston@gmu.edu  •  703-993-3131  •  http://gradfellows.gmu.edu
**UNCF / Merck Graduate Science Research Dissertation Fellowships**
Up to two years of support for doctoral level (Ph.D. or M.D.) research and degree completion in the sciences and engineering for African American candidates. Funding level varies according to length of award, up to $53,500 plus mentorship by a Merck scientist or engineer. Candidate must be a citizen or permanent resident of the U.S. Undergraduate and post-doctoral awards also available.

**Wellstone Fellowship for Social Justice**
[http://www.familiesusa.org/fellowships/wellstone-fellowship.html](http://www.familiesusa.org/fellowships/wellstone-fellowship.html)
This is a professional development fellowship offered by the think tank Families USA, focused on health care issues. The Wellstone Fellow’s primary responsibilities include assisting in the organization of conferences and trainings for advocates and community leaders; drafting talking points, blogs, fact sheets, and content for other publications. The Fellow will learn about health reform implementation, health equity, Medicaid, Medicare, and other important health policy issues. The fellowship will last one year, from August through July. Fellow will receive an annual salary of approximately $38,000 and excellent health care benefits. This is a diversity fellowship intended to attract candidates from under-represented and low-income groups, including American Indian and Alaska Native, Asian American, Black/African American, Latino, and Native Hawaiian / Pacific Islander individuals. Deadline: January

**William Randolph Hearst Endowed Fellowship for Minority Students**
The Aspen Institute Program on Philanthropy and Social Innovation (PSI) in Washington, DC, offers the William Randolph Hearst Endowed Fellowship three times annually. The fellowship, which is based on academic excellence and need, is open to both undergraduate and graduate students of color. The Hearst Fellow serves as an intern with PSI in the Washington, DC office of the Aspen Institute. Through this fellowship, PSI seeks to introduce a diverse group of students to issues and challenges affecting philanthropy, social enterprise, nonprofit organizations, and other actors in the social sector.

**Xerox Technical Minority Scholarship Program**
Awards ranging from $1,000 - $10,000 to qualified minorities enrolled in a technical degree program at the bachelor level or above. U.S. citizens and permanent residents who are full time students with GPA 3.0 or above and of African American, Asian, Pacific Islander, Native American/Alaskan, or Hispanic/Latino descent are eligible. Qualifying fields are: Chemistry, Information Management, Computing and Software Systems, Material Science, Printing Management Science, Laser Optics, Physics, and Engineering. Deadline: September.
Residential Dissertation/Postdoctoral Fellowships for Underrepresented Groups

Residential fellowships offer advanced doctoral students the opportunity to complete their dissertations in residence at a college, university, or other institution where they are offered a stipend and faculty privileges (office/lab space, library access, parking, etc.). In return, fellows are expected to contribute to the intellectual life of the institution, either by teaching a specialized course (usually a seminar in their area of expertise) or by giving an occasional public lecture or interacting with students, faculty, and colleagues.

Most such fellowships specifically seek to recruit candidates from underrepresented groups, with the goal of increasing faculty diversity. The definition of “underrepresented” varies by award. In some cases it is limited to specific groups (most commonly Blacks/African Americans, Latinos, and Native Americans/Alaskans/Pacific Islanders.) In others it may include the disabled, first-generation Americans, first-generation college students, LGBTQ-identified individuals. In some fields, gender is a consideration (for example, men may be considered “underrepresented” in Nursing, or women in Engineering.) Prospective applicants are encouraged to carefully review eligibility requirements and (whenever possible) the profiles of past recipients.

Arnold L. Mitchem Dissertation Fellowships (Marquette University)
http://www.marquette.edu/provost/mitchem-dissertation-program.shtml
Two one-year fellowships designed to help increase the presence of currently underrepresented racial and cultural groups in the U.S. professoriate by supporting doctoral candidates in completing the final academic requirement, the dissertation. The fellowship carries a stipend of $35,000. Fellows are to be in residence at Marquette University for the academic year (22 August-20 May) during which they teach one course in their area of specialization. See web site for fields invited in a given year/competition cycle. U.S. citizens / permanent residents. Deadline: January.

Center for U.S.-Mexican Studies (USMEX) Dissertation Residence Fellowships (U.C. San Diego)
http://usmex.ucsd.edu/fellows/index.html
USMEX at U.C. San Diego offers residential dissertation fellowships or 4-9 months for advanced doctoral students completing their dissertations on contemporary Mexico, Mexican history, and U.S.-Mexican relations. Comparative studies with a substantial component focusing on Mexico are also welcome. Disciplinary focus is history, social science, and related fields. In some years a postdoctoral award is also offered.

Chavez/Eastman/ Marshall Dissertation Fellowships (Dartmouth College)
http://graduate.dartmouth.edu/funding/fellowships/cem.html
- Cesar E. Chavez Fellowship (for scholars of Latino/Latina descent)
- Charles A. Eastman Fellowship (for scholars of Native American descent)
- Thurgood Marshall Fellowship (for scholars of African American descent)
Year-long residency for doctoral student completing dissertation. Fellow will complete the dissertation in residence at Dartmouth College and also participate in selected activities with Dartmouth undergraduates. $25,000 plus other support. Open to US citizens in most fields – check web site for details.

Consortium for Faculty Diversity in Liberal Arts Colleges
http://www.gettysburg.edu/about/offices/provost/cfd/
Dissertation and post-doctoral fellowships in all disciplines of the liberal arts and engineering for scholar-in-residence postings in a nationwide consortium of liberal arts colleges. Applicants must be U.S. citizens or permanent residents who are also members of underrepresented minority groups. Appointments are made by the member institutions according to local needs and local program guidelines.
Five Colleges Fellowship Program (Amherst, Hampshire, Mount Holyoke, and Smith Colleges)
https://www.fivecolleges.edu/faculty/fellowships/node/75
Year-long residency for doctoral students completing dissertation. This program supports scholars from underrepresented groups and/or scholars with “unique interests and histories.” Fellows will complete the dissertation in residence at Amherst College, Hampshire College, Mount Holyoke College, or Smith College. Most fellows teach 1 course while in residence. $30,000 plus other support. Open to all fields, no citizenship restrictions.

Gaius Charles Bolin Dissertation Fellowships (Williams College)
http://faculty.williams.edu/graduate-fellowships-2/graduate-fellowships/
Two-year residency at Williams College in Williamstown, MA. The first year is spent primarily on dissertation completion, the second on academic career development while teaching one course. The Bolin Fellowship is awarded to applicants from underrepresented groups, including ethnic minorities, first generation college graduates, women in predominantly male fields, and scholars with disabilities. Annual stipend is $35,000 plus other support. This award is also open to post-MFA candidates.

Jackie McLean Fellowship (University of Hartford, CT)
Designed to support the development of diversity and intercultural competence on campus by bringing promising scholars or artists to our campus for a year. Successful candidates will demonstrate promise as a teacher and scholar or artist; interest in a career in academia; and a commitment to working with a diverse student body and advancing intercultural competence in all students. Responsibilities include teaching one course per semester, conducting research or scholarship toward the completion of their degree or as a follow-up to their graduate work, and engaging in academic service. Applications will be considered in the following disciplines: architecture, biology, chemistry, engineering, history, mathematics, and the performing arts. Stipend: $37,500. Deadline: February.

Marilyn Yarbrough Dissertation/Teaching Fellowship (Kenyon College)
http://www.kenyon.edu/x27112.xml
Year-long residency for doctoral students completing dissertation. This program supports scholars from underrepresented groups (including ethnic minorities, women in male dominated fields and men in female dominated fields, and persons who are first-generation college attendees.) Open to U.S. citizens in most fields in the arts and sciences. Fellows will complete the dissertation in residence at Kenyon College and teach one course per semester. $32,500 plus other support.

University of California / University of Michigan President’s and Chancellor’s Postdoctoral Fellowship Programs
http://pplp.ucop.edu/info/
The University of CA and the University of MI join in a collaborative partnership to support new scholars interested in faculty careers who will contribute to diversity and equal opportunity in higher education through their teaching, research and service. This partnership aligns programs at the ten-campus University of California system and the University of Michigan to offer postdoctoral research fellowships coupled with faculty mentoring, professional development and academic networking opportunities. The programs are particularly interested in supporting scholars with the potential to bring to their academic careers the critical perspective that comes from their non-traditional educational background or understanding of the experiences of groups historically underrepresented in higher education. Opportunities may differ in their scope and requirements each year – see the web site for details.

University of Pennsylvania Postdoctoral Fellowships for Academic Diversity
http://www.upenn.edu/research/postdocs_students/postdoctoral_fellowships_for_academic_diversity/
Postdoctoral fellowship, $43,000 annual stipend and other benefits. Application falls in September annually. Open to most fields. For more information please visit the web site.