



Office of Graduate Fellowships

Fellowship Opportunities for:

Underrepresented Groups

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.

American Association of University Women (AAUW)

<http://www.aauw.org/what-we-do/educational-funding-and-awards/>

The AAUW hosts six fellowship programs aimed at supporting women pursuing graduate and professional education in a wide range of fields. The **American Fellowships** provide dissertation completion and postdoctoral funding for U.S. citizens and permanent residents. **International Fellowships** support graduate study at the Master's, PhD, and postdoctoral levels for international students. 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 a field where women's participation traditionally has been low – see web site for a list of eligible fields. **Career Development Grants** support women who are non-traditional student seeking to change careers or re-enter the work force after a hiatus. Other grants support community and international project proposals. Deadlines vary but most fall between November-January.

AERA Minority Dissertation Fellowship in Education Research

<http://www.aera.net/ProfessionalOpportunitiesFunding/FundingOpportunities/AERAMinorityFellowshipProgram/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 a number scholarships for graduate and professional (as well as undergraduate) students who are U.S. citizens of American Indian descent. Award amounts and eligibility requirements vary by award - see web site for details. Applications open annually in January and deadline is in May; early application recommended.

American Indian Graduate Center Graduate Fellowships

<http://www.aigcs.org/scholarships/graduate-fellowships/>

AIGS offers a number of scholarships for students of American Indian heritage. Fields of study, award amounts, and eligibility requirements vary by award – please visit the web site for details. Most deadlines fall in May or June.

American Indian Science and Engineering Society (AISES)

<http://www.aises.org/scholarships>

AISES offers scholarships for students of American Indian descent in a variety of STEM fields. Award details, amounts, eligibility requirements, and deadlines vary – see web site for details.

APSA Minority Fellows Program (Political Science)

<http://www.apsanet.org/mfp>

The APSA Minority Fellows Program (MFP) is a fellowship competition for individuals from underrepresented backgrounds applying to or in the early stages of doctoral programs in political science. In particular APSA seeks to support 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. This competition runs both a fall and spring cycle, with deadlines in March and October. APSA lists additional resources for minority scholars at its web site: <http://www.apsanet.org/PROGRAMS/Diversity-Inclusion-Programs>

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/congressional-fellows/>

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 prior to the program start date, and may be continuing graduate students or recent alumni of a master's or doctoral program. Deadline: April.

Congressional Black Caucus Congressional Fellows Program

<http://www.cbcfinc.org/fellowships/>

The CBC Congressional Fellows program aims to increase the number of African Americans working as professional staff in the U.S. Congress through this two-year paid professional development experience on Capitol Hill. Open to candidates who will have completed a graduate degree by the start date of the program (September). The ideal candidate will possess demonstrated interest in public policy and commitment to creating and implementing policy to improve the living conditions for underserved and underrepresented individuals, plus familiarity with the federal legislative process and the CBC. Applicants must be U.S. citizens or have the right to work in the U.S. for the duration of the fellowship. Fellows are paid \$40,000 per year plus benefits. Deadline: April.

Charles B. Rangel International Affairs Program

<http://www.rangelprogram.org/>

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 Graduate Fellowship Program

http://chci.org/programs/graduate_fellowship/

CHCI's Graduate Fellowship Program is designed for exceptional emerging Latino leaders who want to immerse themselves in a specific public policy area. This paid, nine-month fellowship provides valuable work experience, access to powerful Latino network, and a chance to showcase your public policy knowledge on Capitol Hill. Focus areas are: higher education, secondary education, health, housing, law, and STEM fields. The fellowship consists of placements in policy-making positions in and around Washington D.C. and offers salary, benefits, and professional development/networking opportunities. Deadline: February. CHCI also offers other scholarship, internship, and fellowship programs: <http://chci.org/programs/>

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.

Educators for Fair Consideration (EF4C)

<http://e4fc.org/resources/scholarshiplists.html>

The organization E4FC has developed resources to help undocumented students across the United States find scholarships to pay for college and graduate study. This page connects students, educators, and parents to resources assembled and updated by undocumented young people who have participated in E4FC's various programs.

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.

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, award amounts, and eligibility requirements 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 publishes a scholarship guide with listings of scholarships for Latino students, which may be downloaded from their web site. MALDEF also offers its own \$5,000 scholarship for Law students.

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

<https://www.pdsoros.org/>

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. Each Fellowship supports up to two years of graduate study in any field and in any advanced degree-granting program in the United States. Applicant 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.

UNCF / Merck Graduate Science Research Dissertation Fellowships

<http://umsi.uncf.org/>

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://familiesusa.org/sites/default/files/applications/FAM_Wellstone%20Application%20Form.pdf

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: February

William Randolph Hearst Endowed Fellowship for Minority Students

<http://www.aspeninstitute.org/policy-work/nonprofit-philanthropy/leadership-initiatives/hearst>

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

<http://www.xerox.com/jobs/minority-scholarships/enus.html>

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 Fellowships

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. While many such fellowships specifically target “under-represented minority” candidates (with the goal of increasing faculty diversity), the definition of “under-represented” can be quite broad, and prospective applicants are encouraged to carefully review eligibility requirements and (when available) the profiles of past recipients. These awards give preference to individuals preparing for academic / teaching careers.

This is not an exhaustive list, but rather a collection of examples. If you are interested in a particular college or geographical region you are encouraged to check for similar opportunities at the locations most appropriate for you.

American Bar Foundation Law and Social Science Dissertation Fellowships

<http://www.americanbarfoundation.org/research/Fellowshipopportunities/LawandSocialScienceDissertationFellowshipMentoringProgram.html>

The Law and Society Association, in collaboration with the American Bar Foundation and the National Science Foundation, seeks applications for the Law and Social Science Dissertation Fellowship and Mentoring Program (LSS Fellowship). Fellowships are held in residence at the American Bar Foundation in Chicago, IL, where Fellows are expected to participate in the intellectual life of the ABF, including participation in a weekly seminar series. The Fellowship is for two years. Graduate students who specialize in the field of law and social science and whose research interests include law and inequality are invited to apply. Open to U.S. citizens and permanent residents. \$30,000 per year plus other perks. Deadline: December 1.

Ann Plato Fellowship (Trinity College, Hartford, CT)

<http://www.trincoll.edu/Academics/dean/positions/pages/Ann.aspx>

Year-long pre- or post-doctoral (or post-MFA) residency at Trinity college. Applicants must be U.S. citizens or permanent residents who will contribute to enhancing diversity at Trinity College by increasing ethnic and racial diversity, maximizing the educational benefits of diversity, and/or increasing the number of professors who can and will use diversity as a resource for enriching the education of students. Stipend is \$50,000 (\$55,000 for post-doctoral fellows). Dissertation fellows teach 1 course per year (post-docs teach 2 courses.)

Arnold L. Mitchem Dissertation Fellowships (Marquette University)

<http://www.marquette.edu/provost/mitchem-dissertation-program.shtml>

One-year fellowship 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. Two awards are offered per year with a stipend of \$35,000. Check web site for eligible fields, which may vary from year to year. Fellows are to be in residence at Marquette University for the academic year, 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.

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. Deadline: February 1.

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 under-represented minority groups. Appointments are made by the member institutions according to local needs and local program guidelines.

Gaius Charles Bolin Dissertation Fellowships (Williams College)

<http://dean-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 U.S. citizens and permanent residents from under-represented groups, including ethnic minorities, first generation college graduates, women in predominantly male fields, and scholars with disabilities. Annual stipend is \$37,000 plus other support. This award is also open to post-MFA candidates.

Getty Pre-Doctoral and Post-Doctoral Fellowships (Getty Research Institute, Los Angeles, CA)

http://www.getty.edu/foundation/funding/residential/getty_pre_postdoctoral_fellowships.html

Getty Pre-Doctoral and Post-Doctoral Fellowships support emerging scholars in Art History, Cultural / Visual Studies, and closely related fields who are completing work on projects related to the Getty Research Institute's annual theme. Recipients are in residence at the Getty Research Institute, where they pursue research to complete their dissertations or to expand them for publication. Pre-Doctoral fellows are in residence from September to June and receive a stipend of \$25,000. (Postdocs receive \$30,000.) Scholars of all nationalities are welcome, but certain U.S. residency requirements apply, see web site for details. Deadline: October 1.

Henry Roe Cloud Dissertation Fellowship (Yale University)

<http://ygsna.sites.yale.edu/about-us/henry-roe-cloud/fellowship-opportunity>

Since 2010, the Roe Cloud Fellowship has helped to develop American Indian Studies at Yale by facilitating the completion of the doctorate by scholars working on pressing issues related to the American Indian experience. Scholars working on topics in Indigenous Studies that relate to the study of North American Indians are also encouraged to apply. The Fellowship will support a graduate scholar in any doctoral field for the academic year. Graduate students working towards careers in higher education who have completed all doctoral requirements but the dissertation are invited to apply. Deadline: March.

Jackie McLean Fellowship (University of Hartford, CT)

http://www.hartford.edu/aboutuofh/office_of_provost/jackie_mclean_fellows.aspx

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. For application information please visit the web site.

MIT School of Humanities, Arts and Social Sciences – Diversity Dissertation Fellowship

<http://shass.mit.edu/inside/resources/internal/diversity-predoc>

Fellowships support scholars from a wide range of backgrounds who can contribute to the diversity of SHASS and the higher education community. Applicants from members of racial and ethnic groups that have historically been underrepresented in the humanities and social sciences and from disadvantaged backgrounds are encouraged to apply. Each Fellow will be affiliated with a department or program at MIT. Fellows will not be required to teach while at MIT. The fellowship is for one year, stipend of \$50,000. Application deadline: May (can vary, check web site.)

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 under-represented 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.

Miller Center Fellowships in Politics and History

<http://millercenter.org/academic/dgs/fellowship>

The Miller Center of Public Affairs at the University of Virginia offers a competitive fellowship program for individuals completing their dissertations on American politics, foreign policy and world politics, or the impact of global affairs on the United States. The program funds 10 grants to support one year of research and writing. Stipend levels vary in the \$20,000-\$30,000 range. Residence at the Miller Center is strongly encouraged, but not required. No citizenship restrictions. Deadline: February.

Penn Predoctoral Fellowships for Excellence Through Diversity (University of Pennsylvania)

<http://provost.upenn.edu/diversity-predoc>

This program is designed to provide mentorship and access to Penn's resources for doctoral students in the humanities or social sciences, enrolled at universities other than Penn, as they complete their dissertations. It supports scholars from a wide range of backgrounds who can contribute to the diversity of Penn and the higher education community. The Fellowships support graduate students in the final stages of dissertation research or writing for residency at Penn for an academic year. Stipend is \$28,500 with additional support for research / travel.

Phillips Exeter Academy Dissertation Year Fellowships

https://www.exeter.edu/about_us/171_15053.aspx

Phillips Exeter Academy seeks to support the academic and career development of doctoral students, and promote diversity and lively intellectual exchange on its campus by offering a Dissertation Year Fellowship that will support PhD candidates in the completion stage of their dissertation. The fellowship offers a \$14,000 stipend plus room, board, benefits, travel funds, access to facilities and resources, and professional development opportunities. There is no teaching obligation, though fellows are invited to share their work/research with the community during their residency.