



Office of Graduate Fellowships

Fellowships Opportunities for Graduate School Applicants and the First Years of Graduate Study

Launching Your Graduate Education

The fellowship opportunities listed below are intended to help students launch a graduate school career by providing funding for the first year (or in some cases multiple years) of post-baccalaureate education. These are nationally competitive fellowship programs intended to offer comprehensive support to exceptionally talented students, including stipend, tuition support (which may be covered by the award or in cooperation with the university), and in some cases supplemental funds for research, travel, internships, or other expenses. These are merit-based programs in which financial need is not normally a factor in either the selection process or the amount of the award. Many awards are targeted at specific fields of study and/or demographic groups.

These awards are “portable,” meaning that the student will typically apply for the award in parallel with their first-time application to graduate programs, and, if granted, take the award with them to the graduate program of their choice. This includes graduating seniors and college graduates planning to enter graduate study for the first time. Some competitions also accept applicants who are in the early years of graduate study, those moving from Master’s into Ph.D. programs, or those who are returning to graduate study after a hiatus.

Because these awards are intended to attract talented students into particular academic or professional fields, it is common for them to include funding for supplemental (and sometimes mandatory) professional development activities in the form of workshops, conferences, summer internships, or career placement support. Some awards entail post-graduation paid service requirements, and a handful of Federal awards (DOD SMART, Rangel, Pickering, Payne) lead directly to employment with the US Federal Government.

Determining eligibility status for these awards can be tricky, especially for students who have switched fields, transferred institutions, attended school part time, taken years off between degrees, or previously earned other graduate degrees. If after a careful reading of the eligibility requirements you are still in doubt as to whether you are eligible, contact the fellowship program staff and explain your situation. Be aware, however, that most of these competitions are intended to help those who are at the early post-baccalaureate stage of their education and career. They will also give preference to candidates who are committed to full time graduate study and research, limiting or prohibiting other forms of employment.

AAUW International Fellowships

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

International Fellowships are awarded for full-time study or research in the United States to women international students (who are not U.S. citizens or permanent residents.) Both graduate and postgraduate studies at accredited U.S. institutions are supported. Applicants must have earned the equivalent of a U.S. bachelor's degree by September 30 of the application year and must (at a minimum) have applied to their proposed institutions of study by the time of the application. Recipients are selected for academic achievement and demonstrated commitment to women and girls in their academic and professional life. Recipients are expected to return to their home countries to become leaders in business, government, academia, community activism, the arts, and sciences. Master's level \$18,000; Doctoral level \$20,000; Postdoctoral \$30,000.

AAUW Selected Professions Fellowships

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

Selected Professions Fellowships are awarded to U.S. citizen or permanent resident women who intend to pursue a full-time course of study 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; Engineering; and Mathematics/Statistics. Awards range from \$5,000 - \$18,000. Some additional fields are open to applicants who are women of color.

APSA Minority Fellows Program (Political Science)

http://www.apsanet.org/content_3284.cfm

The APSA Minority Fellows program is designed primarily for minority students applying to enter a doctoral program in political science. Applicants may be current undergraduate or master's students or recent graduates in the process of applying to enter a Ph.D.-granting program in political science. Successful candidates must show the potential for a career in the research and teaching of political science. In addition, the applicant must be a U.S. citizen (by the time of the award) who is 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.

Charles B. Rangel International Affairs Program

<http://www.rangelprogram.org/index.cfm?session.arenaid=2&contentid=672&typeid=CBRIAP92223>

The Rangel Graduate Fellowship program aims to attract and prepare outstanding young people for careers in the U.S. Foreign Service. Candidates apply in September of the year prior to entering a graduate program. Each year, the Rangel Program selects 20 fellows and fully supports them through two years of graduate study, including stipend, tuition, internships and professional development activities. Fellows who successfully complete the program and meet Foreign Service entry requirements will receive appointments as U.S. Foreign Service Officers. This program especially seeks to recruit U.S. citizens who are members of minority groups historically underrepresented in the Foreign Service, and those with financial need.

Department of Energy Computational Science Graduate Fellowship (DOE CSGF)

<http://www.krellinst.org/csgf>

The DOE CSGF is open to U.S. citizens or permanent residents who are planning full-time, uninterrupted study toward a Ph.D. in computational science and closely related fields at an accredited U.S. university. Senior undergraduate and first and second year graduate students in engineering and in the physical, computer, mathematical or life sciences, as well as computational social science, are eligible to apply for the program. Fellowship support is limited to four years and must be renewed each year. During the fellowship period, fellows are required to be enrolled as full-time graduate students and conduct research in areas of interest to the DOE. The summer is spent conducting full-time research or study related to the completion of the degree program.

Department of Energy Office of Science Graduate Fellowship Program

<http://scgf.orau.gov/>

The DOE SCGF is a three-year award, providing partial tuition support, an annual stipend for living expenses, and a research allowance for full-time graduate study and thesis/dissertation research at a U.S. academic institution. Applicants must be U.S. citizens and either a first or second year graduate student (master's or Ph.D.), or an undergraduate senior at the time of applying, and must be pursuing or plan to pursue graduate study and research in areas relevant to the science programs supported by the DOE Office of Science. Those not currently enrolled but who have been (or will be) accepted to a qualified graduate program for the subsequent academic year are also eligible.

DoD SMART

<http://smart.asee.org/>

The DoD SMART scholarship can be used for graduate study in STEM fields at either the Master's or Ph.D. level. Candidates may apply when seeking admission to the graduate program of their choice or any time after starting graduate study. Limited to U.S. citizens. SMART provides up to five years of funding for graduate study and includes paid summer internships in DoD laboratories. This award requires recipients to participate in a service agreement whereby they undertake paid work for the Department of Defense after graduation for a period of time determined by the amount of funding received.

Donald M. Payne International Development Fellowship Program (USAID)

<http://www.paynefellows.org/index.html>

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). The fellowship provides up to \$90,000 in benefits over two years for graduate school, plus paid 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 successful completion of the program, conditional upon meeting USAID entry requirements.

EPA STAR Fellowships

<http://www.epa.gov/ncer/fellow/>

Note: Funding for this program is tenuous. Awards were made in 2016 but no appropriation was provided for the 2016-17 competition. It is possible that the competition will open again in a future year. EPA's STAR graduate fellowship program supports masters and doctoral candidates in environmental sciences and related fields, with emphasis on priority research areas for the EPA. Benefits include: Up to \$44,000 per year, including \$12,000 per year for tuition and fees, \$27,000 per year stipend, and an annual expense allowance of \$5,000. Masters level students can receive support for a maximum of 2 years, doctoral students 3-4 years. Open to U.S. citizens and permanent residents. Candidates may apply before or after entering a graduate program, so long as they have at least two years of study remaining (at the time of application) to complete their degree.

Ford Foundation Fellowship Program

<http://sites.nationalacademies.org/PGA/FordFellowships/index.htm>

Pre-Doctoral, Dissertation, and Post-Doctoral awards for PhD students intending academic careers as scholars and teachers. The Pre-Doctoral award supports candidates in the early stages of doctoral study. 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.

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.

National Defense Science and Engineering Graduate (NDSEG) Fellowship

<http://ndseg.asee.org/>

The National Defense Science and Engineering Graduate (NDSEG) Fellowship is a highly competitive, portable fellowship that is awarded to U.S. citizens and nationals who intend to pursue a doctoral degree in one of fifteen supported disciplines (see web site). Applicants should be in their final year of undergraduate school, or have completed less than two full-time years of graduate study in the discipline in which they are applying. NDSEG Fellowships last for three years and pay for full tuition and all mandatory fees, a monthly stipend, and up to \$1,000 a year in medical insurance. This award incurs no service requirement.

National Health Service Corps Scholarship Program

<http://www.nhsc.hrsa.gov/scholarships/index.html>

The NHSC Scholarship Program accepts applications from US citizens committed to careers in primary health care and accepted to or enrolled in an accredited U.S. school in one of the following primary care disciplines:

- Physicians (MD or DO)
- Dentists
- Nurse Practitioners (post graduate degree with clinical practice focus)
- Certified Nurse-Midwives
- Physician Assistants

The scholarship pays tuition, fees, other educational costs, and provides a living stipend in return for a commitment to work at least 2 years at an NHSC-approved site in a medically underserved community.

NOAA Dr. Nancy Foster Scholarship Program

<http://fosterscholars.noaa.gov/aboutscholarship.html>

Provides support for outstanding students who are pursuing or intend to pursue a masters or doctoral level degree in oceanography, maritime archaeology or marine biology, including all science, engineering and resource management of ocean and coastal areas (or related areas), at a U.S. accredited institution. Open to US citizens/nationals and permanent residents, this award particularly welcomes applications from women and members of minority groups. \$30,000 stipend plus additional funds to support tuition and other expenses.

NSF Graduate Research Fellowship Program (GRFP)

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

The GRFP recognizes and supports outstanding graduate students in NSF-supported disciplines (STEM and Social Sciences) who are pursuing research-based master's and doctoral degrees at accredited US institutions. Candidates apply when seeing first-time admission to a graduate program and/or during the first two years of graduate study. The GRFP provides three years of support, including \$34,000 per year stipend, tuition/fees, plus professional development opportunities and other perks. Limited to U.S. citizens / nationals and permanent residents. The GMU Coordinating Official and campus representative for this program is Dr. Kay Ágoston, Director of Graduate Fellowships, Office of the Provost.

Paul and Daisy Soros Fellowships 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 who are at the beginning stage of graduate study in the United States. All fields are eligible (including master's, doctoral, and most professional degrees), but candidates must not be beyond their second year of graduate study in their chosen field. Multi-year awards are possible. This competition gives preference to academically gifted students who have overcome significant hardship in their journey to becoming Americans, or whose path to citizenship has strongly influenced their academic and career path.

SREB-State Doctoral Scholars Program (Southern Regional Education Board)

http://www.sreb.org/page/1074/doctoral_scholars.html

SREB is a regional award open to Ph.D. students attending participating universities in the southeast region, including George Mason University. Please note that applicants who intend to use this award at Mason must: (1) Be VA residents (official VA domicile); (2) Inform their intended program and the Office of Graduate Fellowships of their intention to apply. 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. The Dissertation Award is a one-year award 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 in most fields of study who are members of a racial or ethnic minority, and who plan to become a full-time college or university faculty member after earning the Ph.D.

Thomas R. Pickering Foreign Affairs Fellowship Program

<http://www.twc.edu/thomas-r-pickering-foreign-affairs-fellowship-program>

The Pickering Graduate Foreign Affairs Fellowship Program provides funding to participants as they prepare academically and professionally to enter the United States Department of State Foreign Service. The goal of the Fellowship Program is to attract outstanding students who enroll in two-year master's degree programs in public policy, international affairs, public administration, or academic fields such as business, economics, political science, sociology, or foreign languages who have an interest in pursuing a Foreign Service career in the U.S. Department of State. Women, members of minority groups historically underrepresented in the Foreign Service, and students with financial need are encouraged to apply. The fellowship provides up to \$40,000 annually for actual expenses during the first and second years of graduate school. Funds must be used for tuition costs first, then other costs. Applicants must be U.S. citizens.

Xerox Technical Minority Scholarship Program

<http://www.xeroxstudentcareers.com/why-xerox/scholarship.aspx>

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.