Office of Graduate Fellowships
Fellowship Opportunities in:
Health Professions & Social Work

Introduction

The following is a sampling of fellowship opportunities and resources for graduate students in health and human services professions, including nursing, social work, rehabilitation science, epidemiology, health/health care policy and administration, and related fields. Because health and human services fields tend to be very broad and include many sub-specialties, students are strongly encouraged to use databases and other search tools provided on the Office of Graduate Fellowships web site to identify opportunities targeted at their field(s) of interest. Major awards are typically grants for Ph.D. or post-dissertation of post-doctoral research. Opportunities at the Master’s level are less common, and the size of the awards more modest.

It should be noted that fellowships in these fields (especially those in policy-related fields or those intended for practitioners rather than researchers) often take the form of professional development opportunities in which the student works and gains experience in an organization – similar to an internship, but with higher pay and greater responsibility. These opportunities are usually designed to launch the student in the profession upon completing their degree, providing a transition from the educational to the professional phase of the student’s career. Candidates typically apply during the final year of graduate school in the lead-up to graduation, and may even be eligible for a period of time after graduation.

Professional organizations an important source of funding, and students should always seek out relevant professional organizations to learn about these opportunities. Look for sub-specialty as well as profession. For example, there are professional organizations for nursing (in general), there are also separate organizations for geriatric nurses, OR nurses, oncology nurses, and so on.

Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ) Grants and Funding Opportunities
http://www.ahrq.gov/funding/fund-opp/index.html
AHRQ, a division of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, offers grants supporting research to improve the quality, effectiveness, accessibility, and cost effectiveness of health care. Grant opportunities include funding for doctoral dissertation research (R36) and postdoctoral NRSA (F32) awards. The doctoral dissertation grant program runs four grant cycles per year, with deadlines as follows: February 1, May 1, August 1, and November 1. Please note that individual students cannot apply to this award independently; the application must be submitted by the institution. Interested applicants MUST work closely with faculty mentors who possess experience with AHRQ and/or NIH grant applications and with the Office of Sponsored Programs. Applicants are advised to start far in advance of the deadline.
American Association of Colleges of Nursing
http://www.aacn.nche.edu/students/financial-aid
The AACN web site offers a list of professional organizations and foundations that offer scholarship and fellowship awards to students pursuing graduate education in Nursing and related fields, with links and brief descriptions of awards offered. Resources for undergraduates and students entering graduate school are also listed.

American Association of Critical Care Nurses Professional Development Scholarships
http://www.aacn.org/WD/Memberships/Content/bsngradschship.content?menu=Education&lastmenu=
Scholarship awards to enable critical-care nurses to enrich their careers and acquire knowledge and skills beyond traditional academic nursing education. Membership in the association is required for the duration of the award / funded activity.

American Heart Association
http://my.americanheart.org/professional/Research/FundingOpportunities/Funding-Opportunities_UCM_316909_SubHomePage.jsp
The AHA offers pre-doctoral and post- fellowshipships for Ph.D. candidates pursuing careers in cardiovascular and stroke research. The award is $23,000/year for up to two years. Open to non-U.S. citizens (list of accepted visas on web site.) Note that this award is administered regionally; George Mason University is in the mid-Atlantic region. Deadline: January.

American Lung Association Dissertation Grant
This award supports doctoral research training for dissertation research on issues relevant to lung disease. These awards are intended for nurses or students with an academic career focused on the various disciplines of social science. Research areas of particular interest to the American Lung Association are: psychosocial, behavioral, health services, health policy, epidemiological, biostatistical and educational matters related to lung disease. $21,000/year for up to 2 years.

American Physical Therapy Association
http://www.apbptrfe.org/home.aspx
The APTA has a listing at this web site of residency and fellowship programs in Physical Therapy. Some programs may also be suitable for students of Rehabilitation Science, Nursing, or other professional areas related to physical therapy and rehabilitation.

Autism Speaks / Dennis Weatherstone Predoctoral Fellowship Program
http://www.autismspeaks.org/science/grants-program/grants-and-fellowships
This program offers two-year fellowships for pre-doctoral students from a wide range of academic disciplines interested in pursuing careers in autism research. Fellows work directly with mentors who are leading scientists in the field of autism research. $28,000 / year for two years. Deadline falls in November.

CDC Fellowships
http://www.cdc.gov/fellowships/
The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention offers a variety of fellowship opportunities, including research fellowships, professional development fellowships, and diversity initiatives for students and recent graduates seeing careers in public health and related fields.

Dr. Kathryn E. Ágoston, Director of Graduate Fellowships, George Mason University
kagoston@gmu.edu • 703-993-3131 • http://gradfellows.gmu.edu
CSTE/CDC/ASPPH Applied Public Health Informatics Fellowship Program
https://fellowships.asph.org/programs/details.cfm?programID=34
This award provides one-year, paid, high-quality training assignments for recent graduates in the field of public health informatics, while aiming to secure long-term career placement for Fellows at the state or local level. Must have a master’s or doctoral degree in hand by the start of the award, be a U.S. citizen, and desire a career in public health informatics at the state or local level. Application cycle for this award opens each year in the fall.

David A. Winston Health Policy Fellowship
http://www.winstonfellowship.org/home.html
The David A. Winston Health Policy Fellowship is a 12-16 month postgraduate experience in Washington, D.C. Open to students in the final year of a graduate degree program completing a master’s or doctoral degree in any program, school or department of a college or university that is a member of the Association of University Programs in Health Administration (including George Mason University. Students who do NOT have prior work experience in Washington D.C. in the field of health policy, but who aspire to such careers, will be given preference. Non-U.S. citizens may apply, but must be eligible to work in the United States for the twelve-month duration of the fellowship (post-graduation.) Deadline is in October annually, and fellowship term commences in June.

Discover Nursing
http://www.discovernursing.com/
This web site, which is part of Johnson and Johnson’s Campaign for Nursing’s Future, is an excellent resource for tracking down fellowships and scholarship in the field of nursing. Follows links on the site to “resources.” Note that many awards are sponsored by professional associations for nurses that may be broken down by specialty (e.g. Emergency Nurses Association, Oncology Nurses Association); demographic (e.g. National Black Nurses Association); region (e.g. Midwest Nursing Research Society); and combinations thereof.

Global Health Corps Fellowship
http://ghcorps.org/program
The Global Health Corps seeks to cultivate emerging leaders working for global health equality by placing recent graduates in fellowship positions with NGOs and similar organizations both in Washington D.C. and overseas (Sub-Saharan Africa) dealing with health, health care, health policy, health communication, and related issues. Placements are for one year. Application deadline. February

Health and Aging Policy Fellows Program
http://www.healthandagingpolicy.org/
The program is open to clinical background professionals (e.g. physicians, nurses, social workers, pharmacists, dentists, psychologists, etc.), at all career stages, with a demonstrated commitment to health and aging issues and a desire to be involved in health policy at the federal, state or local levels. The program offers two tracks: a residential program (up to $120K), which is a 9-12 month placement in Washington, D.C. or at a state agency as a legislative assistant in Congress or professional staff in an executive agency or in a policy organization; and a non-residential program (up to $30K), which includes a health policy project. Deadline: May
National Association of Social Workers (NASW)
http://www.naswfoundation.org/fellowships.asp
The National Association of Social Workers offers a number of awards to masters and doctoral students in Social Work and related fields. See web site for details of various awards; most awards are in the range of $2,000 to be used toward the students’ educational costs.

National Institute of Justice (NIJ)
http://www.nij.gov/funding/current.htm
This site lists currently open funding opportunities at the National Institute of Justice, some of which will be relevant to CHHS graduate students and alumni.

Ruth L. Kirschstein National Research Service Award (NRSA F31 Grants)
http://grants.nih.gov/training/nrsa.htm
This Department of Health and Human Services / NIH program offers a number of different awards for individuals working on either research doctorates or health professions (including nursing) doctorates in areas of interest to DHHS and NIH. Limited to U.S. citizens. Deadlines vary, multiple deadlines per year (for most awards April, August, and December). Please note that individual students cannot apply to this award independently; the application must be submitted by the institution. Interested applicants MUST work closely with faculty mentors who possess experience with NIH grant applications and with the Office of Sponsored Programs. Applicants are advised to start far in advance of the deadline.

USAID Global Health Fellows Program (GHFP-II)
https://www.ghfp.net/
The GHFP-II program identifies, recruits, hires and manages the performance and professional development of fellows and interns at all levels. Fellowships are generally two years with the option to extend for an additional two years. In the US, placements can occur in Washington DC, USAID Bureaus, other federal agencies, and USAID partner organizations. Outside the US, placements can occur in Missions, Ministries, NGOs, and USAID partner country offices. Internships include a cohort summer program based in Washington, DC and international placements and internships on-demand and upon-request. Both fellowships and internships are compensated. Qualifications and deadlines vary according to the position, though in general fellowship placements will require higher levels of experience, whereas interns are targeted at students and early-career professionals. Current openings are posted at the web site and via subscription email list (sign up at the web site.)

Villers Fellowship for Healthcare Justice
http://www.familiesusa.org/fellowships/the-villers-fellowship.html
The Villers Fellow works as a full-time policy analyst in Families USA’s Health Policy Department in Washington, D.C. During their year-long tenure, Villers Fellows work on Medicaid and enrollment policy issues and develop an understanding of the federal legislative and regulatory process. They will also be exposed to different advocacy strategies, including producing analytic reports, disseminating effective messages through the media, successful coalition building, and e-advocacy techniques. The fellowship runs from August through July, and Fellows will receive a compensatory package that includes an annual salary of approximately $38,000 and excellent health care benefits. Deadline: January.
**Wellstone Fellowship for Social Justice**

http://www.familiesusa.org/fellowships/wellstone-fellowship.html

The Wellstone Fellowship is a year-long professional development award in Families USA’s Health Policy Department in Washington, D.C., designed to increase the number of low-income, American Indian & Alaska Native, Asian American, Black/African American, Latino, and Native Hawaiian & Pacific Islander social justice leaders. The Wellstone Fellow’s primary responsibilities include drafting talking points, blogs, fact sheets, and other publications, as well as developing content for the Families USA website and email lists that promotes health equity and the reduction and elimination of disparities in health and health care. The fellowship runs from August through July, and Fellows will receive a compensatory package that includes an annual salary of approximately $38,000 and excellent health care benefits. Deadline: January

**AND DON’T FORGET ABOUT THESE....**

The following nationally competitive awards are open to students in health-related fields provided the applicant meets other eligibility requirements.

**AAUW Fellowships**

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

The American Association of University Women offers a variety of fellowships for women engaged in graduate and professional study.

**Boren Fellowships**

http://www.borenawards.org/boren_fellowship

The Boren Fellowships program funds intensive overseas language training (outside of Western Europe) for graduate students combined with independent research, study, service, or professional development. Open to all fields, with an emphasis on themes of national and international security. U.S. citizens only. This award incurs a one-year paid service requirement after graduation.

**Critical Languages Scholarships**

http://clscholarship.org/

The CLS offers opportunities to participate in fully funded summer language program in one of thirteen “critical” languages. For some languages no background is required and students at all stages may apply. For others pre-requisites apply, see web site for details. U.S. citizens only. Open to all fields, but STEM students are particularly encouraged to apply.

**Cosmos Scholarships**

http://www.cosmosclubfoundation.org/scholars/grants-program.html

Small grant ($500-$3,000) in support of graduate level research in any field to graduate students at D.C. metro area universities. Deadline: November 1, annually.
Fulbright U.S. Student Program
http://us.fulbrightonline.org/home.html
The Fulbright U.S. Student Program offers students and recent graduates who are U.S. citizens the opportunity to spend a year abroad engaged in independent research around the world. Open to all academic fields. Health professions students may be interested in a special class of Fulbright known as the Fulbright-Fogarty Fellowships, which offer recipients the opportunity to participate in public health projects in a handful of countries around the world.

Paul and Daisy Soros Fellowship for New Americans
http://www.pdsoros.org/competition/
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.

PMF (Presidential Management Fellowships)
http://www.pmf.gov/
The PMF Fellowship places graduating graduate students in a two-year paid position in the US federal government. U.S. citizens only – rare exceptions may be possible for those on a path to citizenship. Students apply in the last year of graduate school.

SREB-State Doctoral Scholars Program
http://www.sreb.org/page/1074/doctoral_scholars.html
SREB (Southern Regional Education Board) is a regional award open to Ph.D. students. Two types of fellowship are offered: The Doctoral Award supports new Ph.D. students. The Dissertation Award is a one-year award for students who are completing their dissertations. 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, with STEM fields particularly encouraged to apply. Prospective applicants must inform the Office of Graduate Fellowships if they intend to apply for this award program.