GRADUATE FELLOWSHIP GUIDELINES

for nominees entering graduate studies in the 2021-2022 academic year

Information for Directors of Graduate Studies and Department Chairs/Directors
ABOUT THESE GUIDELINES

These guidelines and the nomination form are intended to be used by Directors of Graduate Studies (DGSs) and Department Chairs/Directors at the University of Missouri. We encourage DGSs and Chairs/Directors to spend time reading through these guidelines as we update them each year to reflect changing practices informed by student and program suggestions.

Nominations must be completed by departments and other graduate programs, which choose candidates from the body of accepted applicants in any given year. Students are not permitted to nominate themselves for Graduate School fellowships. Students with questions should contact their department/program’s DGS. A list of department/program DGSs can be found on the Graduate School website: https://gradschool.missouri.edu/faculty-staff-resources/directors-of-graduate-studies/directors-of-graduate-studies-roster/

Questions can be directed to Dr. Lissa Behm-Morawitz, Associate Dean of the Graduate School: behmmorawitze@missouri.edu or (573) 884-1402.

Eligibility Requirements for Fellowships

For nominated students to receive consideration for any MU Graduate School fellowship, the following conditions must be met:

- Student must be newly accepted to MU master’s, specialist, or doctoral degree programs as full-time graduate students. (“Newly accepted” means that the student has been accepted to a graduate program and will enroll for the first time in that program during the 2021-2022 academic year. Typically, newly accepted students start in the fall semester; however, some programs may begin in summer.)
- The department/program should notify the student that they were nominated for a fellowship.
- The department/program must have provided all of the required nomination materials described in the subsequent sections of this guide.

Students who are not eligible to receive new awards or renewal support from a Graduate School fellowship include:

- Students have not yet been accepted to a graduate program
- Benefit-eligible University employees (FTE .75 or more)
- Students who will not be enrolled full-time in master’s, specialist, or doctoral study (9 hours of graded graduate course work per semester or, for those who have passed their comprehensive examinations, 2 hours of 9090 or 9990 [Engineering] Research credits during fall and spring semester and 1 hour during summer session)
- Students in professional degree programs, such as law (JD), medicine (MD), physical therapy (DPT), occupational therapy (MOT), or veterinary medicine (DVM)
- Students who are on academic probation or fail to meet the GPA requirements for a fellowship program
Nomination Deadline & Procedures

Nomination Deadline: 5pm (CST), Tuesday, February 9, 2021

Complete nomination files must be emailed as a single PDF file per nominee by the DGS, Chair/Director, or staff representative to the Graduate School at mugradfellowshipnom@missouri.edu. Forms requiring a signature or appearing originally as paper copies, including the nomination form and some letters of recommendation, may be scanned and/or may include electronically reproduced signatures.

Restrictions on Nominations:
- Each department may submit no more than a total of 3 master’s/specialist-level fellowship nominations and 4 doctoral-level fellowship nominations for a grand total of 7 nominations. This limit does not apply to Ridgel, Marshall, and McNair nominations, for which there are no restrictions to the number of nominations.
- While we recognize that departments/programs can utilize fellowships to leverage enhanced recruitment (e.g., freeing funds to recruit additional students), the Graduate School fellowship program is meant to support the very best students. Thus, it is the expectation that any student nominated for a fellowship is one the department/program accepts and plans to support with funding, independent of receiving a fellowship.

Early Consideration:
If a department is able to recruit a highly competitive student and requires an early decision, an evaluation can be arranged upon request and we will do our best to return a decision quickly. Submit the request to the Associate Dean of the Graduate School.

Late Entries:
Submission of nominations after the deadline date will be subject to consideration using the same review criteria, but awards will be made only to the extent that funding is available.

Fellowship Funding Model

Please read this section carefully as the funding model has changed from previous years.

Starting AY 2021-2022, Graduate School fellowships will run through Payroll instead of Financial Aid. Departments/programs must provide an assistantship as part of the fellowship funding model. The Graduate School financial contribution will be added to the assistantship stipend and be disbursed through Payroll. Additionally, there is now a consistent funding model for doctoral fellowships. The “Option 1” and “Option 2” cost-sharing models for doctoral fellowships no longer exist. The funding model requires that the Graduate School and department/program contribute financially to the fellowship for the duration of the fellowship.

Note: Exceptions to this funding model may be made when a student is funded by a training grant, external source, or other special circumstances. These situations will require a separate
fellowship funding process and disbursement through Financial Aid. Communicate directly with Dr. Behm-Morawitz (behmmorawitze@missouri.edu) to request an exception.

**Fellowship Funding**

Departmental/program support must consist of a graduate assistantship (i.e. GTA, GRA, GI, GLA, GF). Fellowship students must receive a tuition waiver. Health insurance subsidy will be covered by the Graduate School. (Note: If funds, such as an external grant, are used to support a fellowship student, that funding source, e.g., grant, must cover tuition and insurance as allowable.) All stipends are disbursed in monthly payments and are processed through Payroll.

The department’s/program’s contribution must be provided in the form of a graduate assistantship, at or above the highest rate of funding per level of effort provided to any other student in the department/program. For example, the department/program must provide a .25 FTE or .50 FTE assistantship at the highest rate (excluding additional stipend support provided by a fellowship) provided to any other student in the department/program with the same level assistantship. For example, if the highest rate for a .50 FTE assistantship in your department/program is $22,000, then the fellowship recipient should be paid at least $22,000 for a .50 FTE assistantship in your department/program.

Depending on the application of the university’s budget model, departments/programs may be responsible for covering all resident and non-resident education fees (i.e., tuition fees) for the fellowship student. In addition, eligibility requirements for the Graduate Student Tuition Support Program must be followed: [https://gradschool.missouri.edu/funding/tuition-support-program/](https://gradschool.missouri.edu/funding/tuition-support-program/). Departments/programs are not required to cover the cost of course fees; however, a few colleges do cover/waive these expenses, and we encourage this practice when it’s feasible.

Doctoral level fellowship funding is for up to 5 years, and master’s/specialist level fellowship funding is for up to 2 years. See funding table for details about required minimum financial contribution by departments/programs.

**MU Graduate School Fellowship Funding for 2021-2022**

Minimum department/program financial contributions must be in the form of a graduate assistantship.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Fellowship</th>
<th>Masters/Doctoral</th>
<th>Total Doctoral Stipend</th>
<th>Grad School Doctoral Contribution</th>
<th>Min. Dept. Doctoral Contribution</th>
<th>Total Masters Stipend</th>
<th>Grad School Masters Contribution</th>
<th>Min. Dept. Masters Contribution</th>
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**Equity in Assistantship Stipend for Fellowship Students**

The department/program cannot replace a portion of its financial burden with Graduate School funds and require the student to perform the same duties for the department/program. For example, if a graduate assistant not on fellowship is being paid $18,500 .5 FTE by your department, the fellowship student doing the same graduate assistant work at .5 FTE must also be paid $18,500 by your department in addition to the Graduate School fellowship stipend. Although fellowship students may be receiving a higher stipend than some of their peers in your department/program, they must only be asked to perform work equivalent to the FTE assigned.

**Fellowship students have been deemed exceptional and meritorious and as a result must be recognized for that in the financial support they receive from departments/programs.**

If a fellowship student is provided with a lower FTE assistantship appointment than their peers, then the department/program must provide significant “value-added” educational/training benefits (e.g., research support, extra travel funding) not readily available to non-fellowship students.
Checklist for Complete Nomination Files

All of the following must be included in this order:

1. **Nomination form** fully completed and signed by the DGS or the department chair/director. Forms in this packet can be copied for use or downloaded from our website (http://gradstudies.missouri.edu/financials/assistantships-fellowships/fellowships/mizzou-graduate-fellowships/spring-fellowship-competition). The signature confirms that: a) the student has completed the MU Graduate Application form; b) the department/program has newly accepted the student for the identified graduate degree program; c) the student is being nominated for a Graduate School fellowship by the department/program; and d) the department accepts the cost sharing method for this nomination.

2. **Nomination letter**: Department letter of support from the DGS (co-signed by the department chair/director) that **explicitly** describes the department/program’s academic (including mentorship), financial commitment in the form of a graduate assistantship to the student, and the reason(s) the department/program is recommending the student for a fellowship. [Please recognize that should the student receive a Graduate School fellowship, this letter of support from the department/program should be seen as a contract stating the department’s/program’s obligations to the student at the very minimum. Departments/programs may increase but not decrease their support.]

GRE or other standardized test scores cannot be a part of the application; nominations that include information about standardized tests will not be considered for awards. Instead, departments/programs should explain the nominee’s preparation and promise for graduate study in the discipline or field as well as the nominee’s fit with departmental strengths. Evaluators will be looking not only for the raw talent and potential of the student but also for the department’s commitment and ability to mentor that student successfully. The rationale behind the decision to exclude GREs is simple: the Graduate Faculty Senate policy does not require GREs for admission to the University of Missouri. Although we respect that some departments/programs still use the GRE as an important factor of their decision-making process, others do not. As such, we do not allow inclusion of GRE scores in any nomination – thus providing uniformity of nomination packages.

3. An approximately 500-word personal statement from the student giving reasons for pursuing graduate study (personal statement used for department application is appropriate).

4. Three (3) letters of recommendation, at least 2 from an academic source familiar with the student’s academic ability (copies of letters used for department application are appropriate). Nomination letter (see item 2) is not included in the 3-letter minimum. *(If your department/program does not require 3 letters of recommendation for your graduate application process, then please indicate this in your nomination letter to explain why fewer than 3 letters of recommendation are included in the nomination packet. Please include at least 2 letters of recommendation in this case.)*

5. The student’s CV or resume
6. Unofficial transcripts (undergraduate, and graduate as appropriate)

7. If the student is eligible for the McNair Fellowship (refer to the student’s university application to confirm whether they indicated they were McNair participants), include a letter from the McNair Director at the university the student previously attended.

8. If the student is eligible for the AmeriCorps/VISTA/Teach for America/Missouri Advising Corps program, include evidence of participation in the relevant program and the number of years of participation.

◆ Selection Process

All nomination files will be reviewed to ensure that they are complete and that the nominees meet the Graduate School criteria for fellowships. The complete files will be evaluated by a Graduate Fellowship Committee of faculty reviewers. Approximately 5 reviewers from a pool of approximately 30-40 faculty members who represent graduate academic fields across the campus will review each application. No nominee will be reviewed by a faculty member from their home department/program.

The reviewers will evaluate each nominee’s strengths. The scores from these evaluations will be tabulated and will serve to rank the nominees as the basis for the final award decisions made by the Graduate School. The committee will evaluate each nominee in terms of:

- Student qualifications such as undergraduate and/or graduate (as appropriate) grade performance in the last 2 years of undergraduate work, including research and scholarly experiences, graduate-level performance if applicable, and letters of recommendation.
- Student commitment to graduate education in the field or discipline, as shown in the student’s personal statement and letters of recommendation.
- Fit with MU and department/program, as shown in the student’s personal statement and the department’s/program’s letter of support.
- Department/program commitment to cost sharing for the fellowship award, as indicated by the fellowship guidelines and the department’s/program’s nomination letter.

◆ Announcement of Awards & Notification of Acceptance or Rejection

Award decisions about nominations for new fellowships submitted by the deadline will be announced typically no later than the end of the first full week of March.

- Departments will be notified about the status of all nominees.
- The departments/programs are then responsible for notifying individual students of their status, including those who were not selected for an award.
- The Graduate School will provide a template with suggested language for the notification letters sent by departments/programs to the students. In addition, Graduate School staff
are glad to help recruit these students, including corresponding with them if requested and appropriate.

- Departments/programs will be notified when a student is an alternate for a fellowship and then will be notified if, and when, an award becomes available.
- It is crucial that departments let the Graduate School know as soon as possible if their awarded students accept or reject the offer so that alternates can be informed in a timely manner. *(Note: Please remember that, based on the CGS April 15 Resolution, students have until April 15 to notify you of their decision to accept or reject a funded offer.)*

**Deferring a Fellowship Award:**

Graduate students who have been awarded fellowships can request a deferral of their implementation by writing a letter that indicates the reasons and the expected duration for the deferral, addressed to the Associate Dean in the Graduate School. Reinstatement requires a letter requesting reinstatement and the above renewal materials, submitted during the semester before the fellowship is to be reinstated. *(Note: Departments/programs must determine whether a student may defer admission to their program; the Graduate School only handles deferment of fellowship awards.)*

**Tuition Waivers (GSSP)**

Students who receive fellowship support also receive a waiver of resident tuition and non-resident fees through the Graduate Student Support Program (GSSP). Courses that are relevant and applicable to a student’s degree program and those approved by the advisor are covered by the GSSP waiver, up to the graduate tuition rate. That is, GSSP does not cover courses that are not listed on the student’s program of study or otherwise approved by the advisor, nor the cost of incidental fees, such as computing, activity, health or other supplemental fees. If a course is charged at a higher rate than the graduate tuition rate, but is an approved course and paid through MyZou, the GSSP will cover up to the graduate tuition rate and the difference will be the responsibility of the student, unless the department makes arrangements to pay the difference.

A student’s GSSP support can be suspended when a student is on academic probation or does not meet the criteria for fellowships requiring a particular GPA or another aspect of progress toward degree. For more information about the limits on the amount of time students can be covered and other ways graduate students can qualify for this program, check the website: https://gradschool.missouri.edu/funding/tuition-support-program/. The contact person for this program is Karen Gruen, 210 Jesse Hall, 884-2326, gruenk@missouri.edu.

Please note that if a student is funded on a grant as part of the department’s cost share for the fellowship, the grant must cover tuition and insurance costs as allowable. Cost-share tuition waiver request form: https://gradschool.missouri.edu/wp-content/uploads/2018/03/cost-share-fee-waiver-request-form.pdf
Procedures for Renewal of Multi-Year Awards

Graduate students who have been awarded multi-year awards will receive a message in late-spring semester from the Graduate School informing them that their award is renewable if conditions for continued support are met. Upon receipt of the notice from the Graduate School, students should follow the directions indicated in the letter regarding confirmation of their intended continuation with the fellowship and verification of adequate progress. If this information has been received, graduate students will be notified whether their fellowship is renewed in June.

Suspensions of Renewal:
Conditions that could result in suspension of a multi-year renewal award:

- Not maintaining the required GPA. Probationary status automatically disqualifies a student for continuation unless the department demonstrates extenuating circumstances.
- Not maintaining full-time enrollment in credit-bearing graduate-level courses.
- Failing to meet criteria set for Graduate School fellowships in general or for a specific fellowship program.
- Not making adequate annual progress as defined by the department (student must be informed by the department on why adequate progress is not being met in relation to department’s policies).
- Any employment in total of more than 28 hours per week at MU.
- Being “off campus” for half of a semester or more. For absences from campus for such periods of time that are in line with the academic progress of the student (e.g., data collection for a dissertation), the fellowship can be maintained if the department maintains its financial commitment (e.g., assistantship or departmental fellowship).
- If the student is offered another fellowship, the Graduate School will work with the student to develop an appropriate support package.

Extensions of Awards that Have Expired:
Requests for extensions of one semester or one year must be initiated by the department. Extensions will be granted only under extremely unusual circumstances and are subject to the availability of funds. Consideration for an extension will require submission of the items listed above for the Renewal of Multi-Year Awards, with letters from the student and the department addressed to the Associate Dean, Graduate School. These letters must indicate compelling reasons why an extension should be granted and include the expected completion date for the student to obtain the graduate degree. No extension requests will be considered after April 30, 2021. Decisions about extension requests may be delayed pending completion of new and renewal award procedures.
ALL fellowships are subject to the fellowship funding model outlined on pages 3-5.

5-Year Doctoral-Level Fellowship Programs

All of the following programs are reserved for graduate students newly admitted into doctoral degree programs. Each provides 5 years of support plus a tuition waiver and insurance subsidy. Please note that if a student is funded on a grant as part of the department’s cost share for the fellowship, the grant must cover a student’s tuition and insurance costs as allowable, and a cost-share tuition waiver request form (https://gradschool.missouri.edu/wp-content/uploads/2018/03/cost-share-fee-waiver-request-form.pdf) must be been completed and approved by the Graduate School.

**George Washington Carver Fellowships:** Established in 2001 by the chancellor of the University of Missouri, the G. W. Carver Fellowship is awarded to the most highly ranked fellowship nominee who is a U.S. citizen, newly accepted into a doctoral degree program in any field, and a member of an underrepresented ethnic minority population (African American, Native American or Alaska Native, Hispanic or Latinx). The nominee must have and maintain a 3.5 GPA.

**William Gregory Fellowships:** Endowed by St. Louis dry goods merchant, Charles R. Gregory, in memory of his brother, William, the Gregory Fellowship has since 1914 furthered the academic careers of many of MU’s most outstanding graduate students. Awards can be made to doctoral students in any discipline. Nominees must have and maintain a 3.5 GPA. International students are eligible for nomination for this fellowship.

**Adeline Hoffman Fellowships:** Established in 1981, this program is for newly admitted doctoral students who have and maintain a 3.5 GPA, with special consideration for those in a human sciences area (e.g., Personal Financial Planning, Architectural Studies, Human Development and Family Science, Nutrition and Exercise Physiology, and Textile and Apparel Management). International students are eligible for nomination for this fellowship.

**G. Ellsworth Huggins Scholarships:** This program was established in 1979 with a $3.5 million bequest from G. Ellsworth Huggins, the largest gift up to that date received by the University of Missouri. Awards can be made to doctoral students in any field, with special consideration given to students from Huggins’s birthplace (Barton County, MO), especially graduates from schools in Lamar, MO. Nominees must have and maintain a 3.5 GPA. International students are eligible for nomination for this fellowship.

**Stanley L. Maxwell Scholarships:** This program was established in 2001 with a gift from the Maxwell estate. It provides merit scholarships for graduate students. Nominees for this 5-year doctoral award must have and maintain a 3.5 GPA. International students are eligible for nomination for this fellowship.

**Gus T. Ridgel Fellowships:** Named in honor of the first African American student to earn a graduate degree at MU, this fellowship program was established in 1987 to assist qualified underrepresented minority graduate students (African American, Native American or Alaska Native, Hispanic or Latinx) in any field at the University of Missouri. Recipients must be U.S. citizens. Nominees must have and maintain a 3.5 GPA.
Robert E. Waterston Award: Established in 2001 by Robert E. Waterston, this 5-year doctoral award is used to support doctoral students and can be made to graduate students in any discipline. Nominees must have and maintain a 3.5 GPA. International students are eligible for nomination for this fellowship.

Master’s, Specialist, or Doctoral Fellowship and Scholarship Programs

AmeriCorps/VISTA/Teach for America/Missouri Advising Corps Graduate Fellowships: Established in 1998, this program is designed to reward volunteers who recently completed assignments in these service organizations and are accepted into master’s, specialist, or doctoral degree programs in fields related to their prior service and oriented toward a relevant career. Awardees receive support for years equal to the number of years of service in AmeriCorps, VISTA, Teach for America, or Missouri Advising Corps. The fellowship amount is equivalent to the current value of a .25 FTE assistantship from the Graduate School. The nomination materials must include evidence of the number of years of AmeriCorps/VISTA/Teach for America/Missouri Advising Corps service. Nominees must have and maintain a 3.5 GPA.

David R. Francis Fellowships: With an endowment from former Missouri Governor David R. Francis (1850-1927), this fellowship program was established in 1927. Awards are for graduate students newly admitted into master’s or doctoral degree programs in either public affairs or creative literature. The nomination materials for this fellowship program from creative literature applicants must include an original composition. International students are eligible for nomination for this fellowship.

Ronald E. McNair Fellowships: Established in 2001, this program is named in honor of Ronald E. McNair (1950-1986), physicist, astronaut, and crew member of the space shuttle Challenger. The program is designed to support newly admitted master’s, specialist, or doctoral students in any field who successfully completed a Ronald E. McNair Post-Baccalaureate Achievement Program at a university prior to beginning the MU graduate program. Nominees must have and maintain a 3.5 GPA. Fellowship applicants must include a letter from the McNair Director at the Post-Baccalaureate Achievement Program at the university where they completed the McNair Program. If a student received a McNair Fellowship as part of degree program at MU, they are not eligible for a second McNair Fellowship, but may be eligible for others.

Master’s- or Specialist-Level Fellowship and Scholarship Programs

Graduate School Fellowships: This fellowship program is designed to assist departments in recruiting and retaining graduate students who are US citizens and have been newly admitted to a master’s or specialist degree program at MU in any field. Support is $8,200 per year for up to 2 years (maximum award of $16,400) from the Graduate School, with a contribution equivalent to the current value of a .25 FTE assistantship required from the department/program for each year. Departmental support may consist of a fellowship or a fee-waiver qualifying teaching or research assistantship. Nominees must have and maintain a 3.5 GPA.

Thurgood Marshall Academic Scholarships: Named in honor of the late Supreme Court Justice Thurgood Marshall (1908-1993), this program is designed to assist departments in recruiting and retaining newly admitted master’s students from underrepresented ethnic minority populations (African American, Native American or Alaska Native, Hispanic or Latinx). Recipients must be U.S. citizens. Support is $8,200 each year for up to 2 years (maximum award
$16,400) from the Graduate School, with a contribution equivalent to the current value of a .25 FTE assistantship required from the department/program for each year. Departmental support may consist of a fellowship and/or a fee-waiver qualifying teaching or research assistantship. Nominees must have and maintain a 3.5 GPA.

**Extramural Funding Programs**

Individual students may apply directly for external fellowships. The Graduate School maintains a list of external funding opportunities at [https://gradstudies.missouri.edu/funding/assistantships-fellowships/external-fellowships/](https://gradstudies.missouri.edu/funding/assistantships-fellowships/external-fellowships/). In addition to financial support, winners of external fellowships typically receive a waiver of tuition and a medical insurance subsidy option, unless the award program from the funding organization is designed to cover such costs (e.g., NSF GRFP). Students with qualifying external fellowships must have their stipends and other payments made by the external agency through the MU Financial Aid Office.

**Departmental/Program Support**

Departments/programs administer many fellowships, scholarships, traineeships and other financial assistance programs for graduate students. For additional information, students should contact the unit’s department chair/director or DGS.