



(mostly) Graduate Student Funding Opportunities

Office of Research and Graduate Studies

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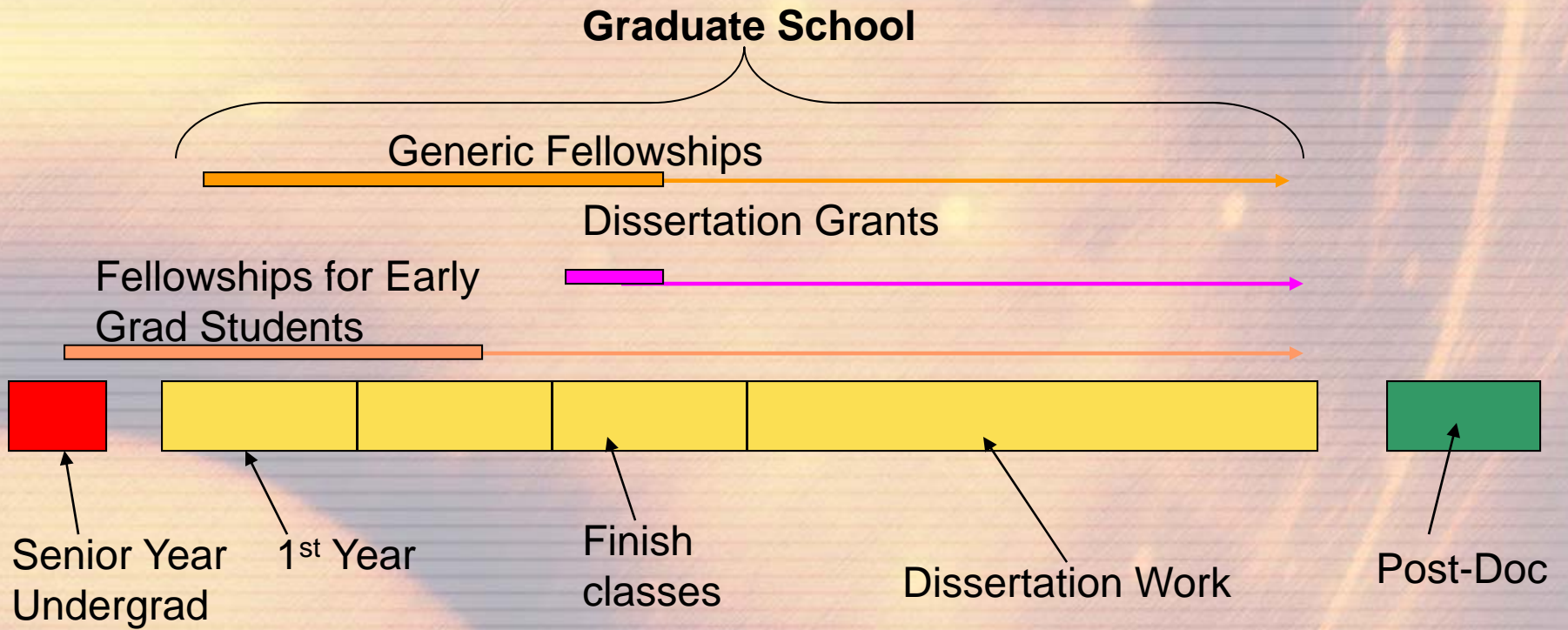
How to Fund Your Graduate Studies

- What types of assistance are available?
- Why should I consider them?
- Who funds these fellowships?
- Tips & Tricks for responding to a solicitation

Types of Assistance

- Research Assistantships
- Teaching Assistantships
- Graduate Fellowships
- Dissertation Grants

The Continuum



Source: Texas A&M

Graduate Fellowships – why bother?

- Good source of funding
- Stipends generally much higher than university assistantships (NSF stipend \$30K/yr)
- Fellowship can be path to a job (e.g., National Lab)

Finding Potential Fellowships

- Keep an open mind
 - As research becomes more multi-disciplinary, you may find opportunities in unexpected places
 - NIH, NSF fund aspects of social and behavioral sciences, philosophy (ethics), communication, etc.
- Talk to faculty in your department
- Look at large fellowship programs and smaller targeted programs (by discipline, demographic group, etc.)
- Excellent web resources available (contact Mark Lynam for additional information)

Who provides funding?

- Federal agencies (NSF, DoD, NASA, NIH, EPA, NEH, USDA, Dept. of Ed., Dept. Homeland Security, etc.)
- Foundations
- Professional Organizations
- Corporations
- For various stages
 - Early Graduate training
 - Dissertation Grant
 - Post-doctoral

Sources to Find Fellowships

– Portals for information

- Community of Science (contact Mark Lynam for additional information)
- U.S. Department of Education:
<http://studentaid.ed.gov/PORTALSWebApp/students/english/index.jsp>
- Students.gov:
<http://www.students.gov/STUGOVWebApp/Public?topicID=19&operation=topic>
- Specific agency and/or fellowships

Using the Internet

- Humanities & Social Science Fellowships and Grants for Graduate and Professional Students
 - <http://www.ors.duke.edu/find/student/grad/gradhumso.c.html>
- Cornell, Humanities
 - <http://cuinfo.cornell.edu/Student/GRFN/list.phtml?category=HUMANITIES>
- Michigan State University Hotlinks to 31 academic disciplines
 - <http://www.lib.msu.edu/harris23/grants/3gradinf.htm>

Example National Fellowships for Early Graduate Students

- **National Science Foundation**, ~ 1000 awarded annually, due Nov. 1st – 9th, depending on discipline
<https://www.fastlane.nsf.gov/grfp/>
- **Department of Defense Science and Engineering Graduate Fellowships**, ~ 200 awarded annually, due January
<http://www.asee.org/ndseg/index.cfm>
- **Krell Institute/DOE Computational Science Graduate Fellowship**, <http://www2.krellinst.org/csgf/eligibility.shtml> ~ 18 awarded annually
- **DHS**, ~ 62 awarded annually due Feb. <http://www.ornl.gov/dhsed/>
- **Dept. of Education**, J. K. Javits Fellowships (48) due Oct.
<http://www.ed.gov/programs/jacobjavits/index.html>

Example: NSF Graduate Research Fellowships

<https://www.fastlane.nsf.gov/grfp/>

- Typically due early November
 - Last year, Nov. 3- Nov. 12 depending on discipline
- Up to 1,600 to be awarded last year
- For any research area funded by NSF
 - Includes Education, Social and Behavioral Sciences as well as Science and Engineering
 - Look through NSF web site at www.nsf.gov for research areas

NSF Fellowship

- \$30,000 per year plus \$10,500 education allowance for 3 years
- Must be US Citizen or permanent resident
- May apply:
 - during undergrad senior year
 - prior to or during 1st year of grad school,
 - or at beginning of 2nd year of grad school

National Defense Science and Engineering Graduate Fellowship

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

- Eligibility:
 - US citizen or national
 - Pursuing doctoral degree in, or closely related to, one of the following disciplines having the greatest benefit to national security:

Aeronautical and Astronautical Eng

Biosciences

Chemical Engineering

Chemistry

Civil Engineering

Cognitive, Neural, and Behavioral Sci.

Computer and Computational Science

Electrical Engineering

Physics

Geosciences

Materials Science and
Engineering

Mathematics

Mechanical Engineering

Naval Architecture and

Ocean Engineering

Oceanography

Jacob K. Javits Fellowships

Selected Fields of Study

- **ARTS**: creative writing, music performance, theory, composition & literature, studio arts, television, film, cinematography, theater, playwriting, screenwriting, acting, dance
- **HUMANITIES**: art history, archaeology, area studies, classics, comparative literature, folklore, **foreign languages**/literature, history, linguistics, philosophy, religion, speech, rhetoric, debate
- **SOCIAL SCIENCES**: anthropology, communications and media, economics, ethnic & cultural studies, geography, political science, psychology, public policy, sociology

US Department of Education Jacob K. Javits Fellowships

- <http://www.ed.gov/programs/iegpsjavits/index.html>
- Last year's deadline: Oct 3, 2008
- About 64 awards anticipated this year
- Average size of awards: \$42,891 (depends on need)
- Funding for up to 48 months
- Includes a stipend for personal expenses and an institutional payment for tuition and fees
- No cost sharing or matching requirements

Fellowships for Early to Middle of Graduate Career: Examples

- Ford Foundation Pre-doctoral Diversity Fellowships
 - 60 awarded at \$20K per year for up to 3 years
 - <http://www7.nationalacademies.org/FORDfellowships/Fordpredoc.html>
 - Must be able to use 3 years of support

Dissertation Grants

- NIH Ruth Kirschstein NRSA Predoctoral Fellowships (NIH)
 - <http://grants1.nih.gov/grants/guide/pa-files/PA-07-002.html>
 - For students entering dissertation research phase
 - For students in biomedical, behavioral, health services, or clinical sciences
- Ford Foundation Dissertation Diversity Fellowships
 - <http://www7.nationalacademies.org/FORDfellowships/forddiss.html>
 - 35 awarded for \$21K for 1 year
- NSF Doctoral Dissertation Improvement Grants in Social, Behavioral, and Economic Sciences
 - http://www.nsf.gov/funding/pgm_summ.jsp?pims_id=13453&org=NSF&sel_org=NSF&from=fund
 - Up to \$12K for expenses related to dissertation research

Fellowships to Promote Diversity

- **TTU:**

http://www.tntech.edu/graduatestudies/diversity_fellowships.html

- A flexible, holistic, and individualized approach will be adopted in awarding the diversity fellowships on a competitive basis. In order to become eligible, applicants must be admitted in full standing to the TTU Graduate School, demonstrate appreciation for and commitment to diversity, and meet at least two of the following criteria.
- 1. Belong to an underrepresented racial/ethnic minority group (African-Americans/Blacks, Hispanics, American Indians/Alaskan Native, and Pacific Islanders)
- 2. Be a resident of one of the educationally underserved/underrepresented areas (refer to list below)*
- 3. Be a U.S. citizen or permanent resident and belong to an underrepresented/underserved gender in science, technology, engineering, mathematics, business, and nursing
- 4. Demonstrate character, motivation and ability to succeed in graduate studies based on academic record and a written essay.

Fellowships for Diversity

Ford Foundation

- <http://www7.nationalacademies.org/fordfellowships>
- **Goal: increase the diversity of the nation's college and university faculties by increasing their ethnic and racial diversity**
- **Predoctoral Diversity Fellowships.**
 - 60 awarded at \$20K per year for up to 3 years
- **Dissertation Fellowship**
 - 35 awarded for \$21K for 1 year
- **Postdoctoral Fellowship**
 - 20 awarded at \$40K for 1 year

Fellowships for Minorities

- **United Negro College Fund & Merck Foundation Science Initiative - Graduate Science Research Dissertation Fellowships.** \$30,000 to assist African-American graduate students in completing coursework, conducting research, and preparing dissertation in the biomedical sciences. December deadline. <http://www.uncf.org/merck/programs/grad.htm>
- **NIH Ruth Kirschstein NRSA Predoctoral Fellowships to promote Diversity in Health-Related Research.** Seeks to improve the diversity of the health-related research workforce by supporting the training of predoctoral students from groups that have been shown to be underrepresented (includes low family income). Must be citizen or permanent resident. Deadline: April 13, Aug. 13, Dec. 13 annually. <http://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/pa-files/PA-07-106.html>

Fellowships for Women

- **American Association of University Women - International Fellowships.** \$18,000 awards to women graduate students studying in the United States who are not U.S. citizens. December deadline.
http://www.aauw.org/fga/fellowships_grants/international.cfm
- **American Association of University Women - Selected Professions Fellowships.** Approximately \$5,000-12,000 awards for women in the final year of graduate study in historically under-represented professions, including Business Administration, Law, Medicine, Architecture, Computer Sciences, Mathematics, and Engineering. January deadline.
http://www.aauw.org/fga/fellowships_grants/selected.cfm

Fellowships for International Students

- Look for industry, professional organization sponsors (not US gov't)
- Look to your home country or companies that do business in your home country
- Look for departmental assistantships

Tips & Tricks

- Analyze what they are looking for (review criteria)
- You are selling yourself and your ideas
- Identify fellowship opportunities for which you are eligible
- Write best possible application

What do the funding agencies want?

- Will you further the goals of the funder?
- Will you be a successful graduate student and researcher?
 - Do you understand the research process?
 - Do you do your homework?
 - i.e., read the literature in your area, understand previous work, etc.
 - Can you express your ideas well?

What do the funding agencies want?

- Is your selected area of research something they want to support?
 - Varies in importance depending on mission of funder
- Are you one of the best candidates in the applicant pool?

Analysis of Applicant Instructions/RFP

- What are eligibility requirements?
- When is the application due?
- How many are awarded each year?
- Apply through university or as individual?
- What criteria are used to evaluate applications?
 - Check with faculty in your department (may have been on review panel)
 - Look at goals of funding organization
- What are the required components of the application and what is application process?
- Contact awarding organization if you have questions

Evaluation & Review Criteria

- **Read application, related information carefully**
 - find out what they are looking for
- Investigate goals and culture of funder
 - Reflect vision of the funding agency

For more information

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