Financial Graduate School
WHO WE SERVE

96 Academic Graduate Programs

18 Agriculture and Environmental Science Programs

15 Humanities and Creative Art Programs

24 Health and Biological Science Programs

18 Engineering, Math and Physical Science Programs

21 Business, Law, and Social Science Programs

5,300 academic graduate students

1,500+ graduate program faculty and staff

1,000+ postdoctoral scholars
The Best Learning Experience

Academic Well-Being

Financial Well-Being

Mental and Social Well-Being
Distribution of Graduate Student Support Types -

- Loan Only - 80 Students
- Fellowship Only - 511 Students
- Employment Only - 1,665 Students
- Multiple forms of support - 1,854 Students
GRADUATE STUDIES

Cost of Graduate School
Total Cost

- **2020-21 Graduate Student Expense Budget**
  (Non-University Housing)
  - Fees - $18,827
  - Books & Supplies - $384
  - Basic Living - $16,876
    - Housing
    - Food
    - Personal
  - Transportation - $2,215
  - **TOTAL = $38,302**

- For citizens who are not CA residents add $15,102 for supplemental nonresident tuition = **$53,404**
How to Fund Grad School
Financing Graduate School

• Your goal should be to have all or a large part of your graduate studies paid for by the university (internal) or external organizations (e.g. NSF, Ford Foundation)

• Graduate programs desire to admit and financially support potentially successful graduate students

• Identify internal (university) fellowships, deadlines and criteria

• Identify all external fellowships, deadlines and criteria
Fellowships

• Fellowship (used interchangeably with "grant")
  
  – The equivalent of "scholarship" in the undergraduate world, is an award that is free money with few, if any strings attached.
  
  – Can be support for stipend or "living expense," fees, tuition, research, travel or any combination of these.
  
  – The value can be from $500 (e.g., a travel award) to $65,000/year.
  
  – Time period - can be a one-time payment, a 1-yr, 3-yr, or even 5-6 yrs of support.
  
  – Different fellowships for different periods of your academic career, i.e., there are fellowships that you can apply for at the beginning of your graduate career and dissertation year fellowships.
  
  – The majority are "merit based" (GPA/GRE scores/letters of reference). There are a myriad of other eligibility factors listed in the application instructions (residency, discipline).
  
  – They are prestigious and make an impression on your CV. “Fellowships beget fellowships.”
Fellowships

• Timing
  – Must look for funding every year at least a year in advance
  – Many application deadlines are in the fall for the next academic year (fall 2020 application deadline to receive funding for the school year starting in fall 2021)
  – Offers often made in Feb, March, April
  – The graduate student is, in many cases, a “commodity.” Negotiate for your support – use your external fellowship as a bargaining tool
Student Eligibility – Undocumented Students & California Dream Act

• AB 540
  • Not subject to nonresident supplemental tuition
  • Attended CA high school for three, or more, years and graduated
  • Residency Deputy must make determination
  • Can be undocumented (but cannot be on J-1 or F-1 Visa)
  • [Link](http://ucop.edu/student-affairs/policies/universitywide-program-policies-and-guidelines/AB540.html#add_1)

• AB 130
  • Undocumented, AB540, students qualify for UC gifts and endowments designated for scholarships by the donor.

• AB 131
  • Makes undocumented AB 540 students eligible for awards from other institutional aid funds, including Tuition & Fee revenue.
Student Eligibility – Undocumented Students & California Dream Act

Immigrants Rising (formerly Educators for Fair Consideration)

Immigrants Rising maintains a list of funding opportunities for graduate students that do not require proof of U.S. citizenship or legal permanent residency.

- https://immigrantsrising.org/resource/graduate-fellowships/
- Scholarship Fund – https://immigrantsrising.org/financial-support/scholarship-fund/
STUDENT FUNDING SOURCES
EXTERNAL FELLOWSHIPS
Why and when should I apply?

**Why:** Professional development, skill development, freedom to pursue own research
   - Apply for funding throughout your grad career

**When:** Apply one year in advance
   - Funding opportunities are available for every stage of your academic career
Fellowships

• Application Process
  – The Student applies directly to the agency following the agency’s guidelines and application instructions - although institutional support is often required.
  – Institutional Support: Signature and/or endorsement from the affiliate university is often required, i.e., the student's faculty mentor, chair, or an institution official might need to sign the application, offer a letter of support, or submit the application online.

• Resources for External Support
  – Self-serve Online Search Engines
    – https://grad.ucdavis.edu/current-students/financial-support/external-fellowships/external-support-resources
  – PIVOT – https://pivot.cos.com/funding_main
  – UCLA Grapes: http://www.scholarshipcenter.ucla.edu/types-search/grapes/
  – Immigrants Rising: https://immigrantsrising.org/resource/graduate-fellowships/

• A-Z Listing @ UC Davis – Search our own list of funding opportunities.
  – https://grad.ucdavis.edu/financial-support/a-z-listing
Fellowship Essays

Be prepared to,

• Develop a well-written and thought out project/topic.

• Reflect on how one demonstrates commitment to diversity and underserved populations in a written statement.

• Communicate how you plan to use the money and resources invested in you.

• Demonstrate that you *have* and *are* what they are looking for.

• Address program goals

• Don’t tell, when you can demonstrate your skills
  – “I’m a critical thinker” vs. “I evaluated fluctuations in Time And Relative Dimensions In Space and determined that the box in question was bigger on the inside than on the outside.”

• Be specific and customize your essays for each organization
Letters of Reference

• Network and Build Relationships with faculty
  – Research experience beyond courses

• Ask, “Can you write me a strong, positive, detailed, letter of reference for a fellowship?”
  – Give them the opportunity to decline

• Confirm deadline for obtaining reference letters.
  – Ask at least a month in advance!
  – Provide them with a resume/CV, draft proposal, personal statements, etc.

• Reference letters may need to be sent directly from mentors (electronic submission).
  – Reminder or “thank you note” near the due date
  – Confirm they were submitted and received
### STUDENT SUPPORT

**Multi-year external fellowships for prospective and first-year students**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Fellowship &amp; Link</th>
<th>Duration (years)</th>
<th>Annual Stipend</th>
<th>Application Due</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Dept. of Defense National Defense Science and Engineering Graduate Fellowship Program (DOD NDSEG); <a href="https://www.ndsegfellowships.org/">https://www.ndsegfellowships.org/</a></td>
<td>3</td>
<td>$38,400</td>
<td>December</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dept. of Defense Science, Mathematics &amp; Research for Transformation (DOD SMART); <a href="https://smartscholarshipprod.service-now.com/smart">https://smartscholarshipprod.service-now.com/smart</a></td>
<td>5</td>
<td>$38,000 (PhD), $25,000 (MS)</td>
<td>December</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dept. of Energy National Nuclear Security Administration Laboratory Graduate Fellowship (DOE NNSA LRGF); <a href="https://www.krellinst.org/lrgf/">https://www.krellinst.org/lrgf/</a></td>
<td>4</td>
<td>$36,000</td>
<td>March</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dept. of Energy Computational Sciences Graduate Fellowship (DOE CSGF); <a href="https://www.krellinst.org/csgf/">https://www.krellinst.org/csgf/</a></td>
<td>4</td>
<td>$37,000</td>
<td>January</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dept. of Energy National Nuclear Security Administration Stewardship Science Graduate Fellowship (DOE NNSA SSGF); <a href="https://www.krellinst.org/ssgf/">https://www.krellinst.org/ssgf/</a></td>
<td>4</td>
<td>$36,000</td>
<td>January</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Ford Foundation Predoctoral Fellowship</strong>; funds social sciences and humanities; <a href="https://sites.nationalacademies.org/PGA/FordFellowships/PGA_171962">https://sites.nationalacademies.org/PGA/FordFellowships/PGA_171962</a></td>
<td>3</td>
<td>$24,000</td>
<td>December</td>
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## Student Support

Multi-year external fellowships for prospective and first-year students

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</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>GEM Fellowships; <a href="https://www.gemfellowship.org/">https://www.gemfellowship.org/</a></td>
<td>Varies</td>
<td>$16,000</td>
<td>November</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hertz Foundation Fellowship; Requires a moral commitment to assist during a</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>$34,000</td>
<td>October</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>national emergency; <a href="https://hertzfoundation.org/">https://hertzfoundation.org/</a></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) Fellowship Activity;</td>
<td>3 to 4</td>
<td>$30,000 (PhD),</td>
<td>January</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><a href="https://nspires.nasaprs.com/external/solicitations/solicitations/init.do">https://nspires.nasaprs.com/external/solicitations/solicitations/init.do</a></td>
<td></td>
<td>$25,000 (MS)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>National Physical Sciences Consortium (NPSC) Graduate Fellowships in the</td>
<td>2 to 6</td>
<td>$20,000</td>
<td>January</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Physical Sciences/Engineering; <a href="http://www.npsc.org/index.html">http://www.npsc.org/index.html</a></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellowship Program (NSF GRFP);</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>$34,000</td>
<td>October</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Social sciences funded; <a href="https://www.nsfgrfp.org/">https://www.nsfgrfp.org/</a></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Dr. Nancy Foster Scholarship</td>
<td>2 to 4</td>
<td>$30,000</td>
<td>December</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Program; <a href="https://fosterscholars.noaa.gov/welcome.html">https://fosterscholars.noaa.gov/welcome.html</a></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paul and Daisy Soros Fellowships for New Americans;</td>
<td>1 to 2</td>
<td>$25,000</td>
<td>November</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><a href="https://www.pdsoros.org/">https://www.pdsoros.org/</a></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
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</table>
STUDENT SUPPORT

Multi-year external fellowships for prospective and first-year students

Government Funding Agencies
- Department of Energy http://science.energy.gov/wdts/scgf/
- Grants.gov

Professional Organizations
- American Society for Microbiology https://www.asm.org/index.php/grants/25-education/students/164-asm-robert-d-watkins-graduate-research-fellowship
- American Geophysical Union http://honors.agu.org/research-grants-and-awards/
- American Council of Learned Societies https://www.acls.org/programs/comps/
- Social Science Research Council http://www.ssrc.org/fellowships/
- American Philosophical Society https://amphilsoc.org/grants

Specialized Scholarships/Fellowships
- L’Oreal USA Fellowships for Women http://www.aaas.org/page/l-or-al-usa-fellowships-women-science
- UNCF/Merck Graduate Science Research Fellowships for African American Students http://umsi.uncf.org/sif#ScienceResearchDissertation
- Rhodes Scholarships
- Ford Foundation
TYPES OF SUPPORT

FELLOWSHIPS

ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

STUDENT LOANS

PERSONAL RESOURCES
Academic Appointments (Student Employment)

• Receive a monthly salary and, as a benefit of employment, your Tuition & Fees are paid on your behalf.

• Appointment time (also called FTE or Full Time Equivalent)
  – A full-time employee is 100%
  – Students work half-time = 50% FTE (20 hours/week) or quarter-time (10 hours/week).

• GSR = Graduate Student Researcher
  – A Graduate Student Researcher is a graduate student who performs research related to the student's degree program in an academic department or research unit under the direction of a faculty member

• TA = Teaching Assistant
  – Employed by department to assist with tasks related to teaching undergraduates.
Student Eligibility – Undocumented Students & California Dream Act

- Federal “Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA)”
  - Undocumented persons allowed to apply for a Employment Authorization Document (work permit).
  - If they receive work permit, undocumented students can work as TA or GSR

- AB 540 and Undocumented Student Center
  - http://undocumented.ucdavis.edu/

- Graduate Studies info for AB 540 and Undocumented Students
  - https://gradstudies.ucdavis.edu/undocumentedgrads
TYPES OF SUPPORT

- Fellowships
- Academic Appointments
- Student Loans
- Personal Resources
Financial Aid

• Loans
  – To be considered for loans, every year you must complete a Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) at http://www.fafsa.ed.gov or California Dream Act Application at https://dream.csac.ca.gov/ to calculate your Financial Need.
  – Loans are available to meet, but not exceed, the Graduate Student Budget ($38,302 for 2020-21).
  – Students may apply for loans throughout each academic year
  – Graduate students are eligible for Unsubsidized, Graduate Plus, or Alternative loans which will need to be repaid.
  – https://financialaid.ucdavis.edu/loans/graduate
TYPES OF SUPPORT

- FELLOWSHIPS
- ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS
- STUDENT LOANS
- PERSONAL RESOURCES
Important Reminders – Fellowships

• Guaranteed not to be funded if you don’t apply

• Seek opportunities to gain research, service learning, & volunteer experience

• Analyze announcement for eligibility and restrictions.

• Apply early. Apply to SEVERAL likely sources (if allowable).

• Answer questions directly & follow instructions.

• Ask several people to give you feedback on your essay drafts.

• Develop an application plan based on due dates.
  – Submit at least three days early!
  – Anticipate last minute glitches.

• If an electronic submission (e.g. Fastlane/NSF) learn the system early.

• Letters of reference timing (ask early)

• Look for funding every year; beginning early fall for the next year
Graduate Student Panelists

Stephanie Milton
First year doctoral student, Study of Religion
She/Her/Hers
Institute for Recruitment of Teachers

Emily Gordon
First year Master’s of Fine Art in Art
She/Her/Hers
McNair Scholars Program

Chimaway Lopez
First year doctoral student in Native American Studies
He/Him/His
Mellon Mays Undergraduate Fellowships
1. How did you approach your successful application to UC Davis and consideration for internal fellowships?