

The Graduate School and the Office of Research and Innovation

Graduate Student Fellowships Nominations

Awards for 2012-2013

NOMINATION DUE DATE: March 1, 2012

Approximately \$30,000 or more (depending on ICR distribution) annually is set aside for Graduate Fellowship Awards. The Fellowships are merit-based awards that contribute to educating graduate students and moving the university research mission forward. The awards are to be used to recruit and retain graduate students.

Graduate Student Requirements: The student must be fully admitted to an on-campus graduate program, and be engaged in full (5 or more credits/semester), or part-time (1 to 4 credits/semester) study to be eligible for the fellowship. If the graduate student fails to meet the credit/semester requirement, the fellowship is forfeited.

Process:

1. The nomination process is initiated by graduate program director; graduate students do not “apply” for the fellowships similar to other financial aid or scholarships.
2. Awards are made for one year, and they will be split between fall and spring semesters. Fellowships are awarded after the student registers for the respective semester.
3. Nomination package should include
 - a. Letters of support: At least one supporting letter from faculty is required.
 - b. Included in the letter should be a statement on how the faculty/mentor will work with the student. A letter from the student nominee should include a statement briefly outlining the student’s purpose and goals in graduate school. The student’s statement may include examples such as specific research ideas, a graduate project, or a creative and scholarly work in the discipline.
 - c. Grad Application (Part 1), plus copy of unofficial transcripts or a UCCS transcript copied by the department (e.g., from grad application material).
4. Please make sure that the undergraduate GPA and the undergraduate college/university is evident on the application.
5. Nominations should be received in the Graduate School by **March 1, 2012 at 4 PM.**

Criteria:

1. The graduate student’s record and potential must reflect outstanding academic quality.
2. Awards will:
 - a. Focus on recruiting or retaining an outstanding student.
 - b. Demonstrate a connection between faculty who are willing to mentor the graduate student, which hopefully leads to a research/creative product (e.g., publication, proposals, scholarly paper, art showing).

Evaluations: Nominees will be evaluated by graduate faculty appointed by each College's Dean. Each evaluator will submit their first top five nominees and their second top five nominees to the Graduate School Dean. All nominees will be evaluated on the following attributes.

1. Quality of past academic record (e.g., GPA).
2. Quality/strength of previously attended programs.
3. Strength of letter of recommendation from faculty mentor.
4. Other letters of support are not discouraged; however, these letters of support should be from those who are able to comment on the graduate student's academic qualifications, not from neighbors and friends.
5. Evidence of a commitment of a faculty member/advisor to have a research/creative interaction with the student.
6. Quality of the student's statement of purpose, and goals in graduate school.
7. Other factors that may influence success in graduate school.

Awards

All Graduate Student Fellowship are \$5,000 awards. The number of awards will be based on the amount of money available each year in the Graduate School budget. Programs are limited to eight (8) graduate student nominations. Departments may receive up to 33% of money available each year to make the distribution of funds equitable.

Submission of Nominations:

Deadlines will be strictly followed. An incomplete nomination or a nomination turned in later than the deadline will not be accepted. Please submit one (1) hard copy, and one (1) electronic copy of the nomination to Steph Romero in the Graduate School office by 4 PM on March 1, 2012. The electronic nomination **must** be one PDF file. The file should be named with the student's last name and department in the file name (Jones-Business.pdf). The electronic nomination should be emailed to sromero@uccs.edu, or hand delivered in the nomination packet via CD or flash drive. Any questions related to the nomination should be directed to Jenenne P. Nelson at jnelson@uccs.edu

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