



# UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND

THE GRADUATE SCHOOL

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## GRADUATE STUDENT SUMMER RESEARCH FELLOWSHIPS (FOR SUMMER 2012)

The Graduate Student Summer Research Fellowships is a companion program to the University of Maryland Flagship Fellowships and the Ann G. Wylie Dissertation Fellowships. The Summer Research Fellowships provide support to doctoral students at “mid-career,” that is, in the period approximately before, during, or after achievement of candidacy. Fellowship awards were made to 47 students in summer 2011, and we hope to continue that in 2012.

The Summer Research Fellowships will provide doctoral students the opportunity to concentrate fully on their own scholarly activities and research, for the duration of a summer, at a critical moment in their graduate studies. *The specific goal of the program is to help students to take a significant step forward in their studies in a timely manner; the overall goals are to reduce time-to-degree, to increase degree completion, and to enhance the quality of the graduate student experience.*

### GUIDELINES

#### Eligibility

Current University of Maryland doctoral students may be nominated for this fellowship. Eligible students will have excellent qualifications, will be making demonstrable progress through their program, and will be able to show that a summer of focused work will enable them **to prepare for or complete a key benchmark** in their program’s requirements. *Summer Research Fellowships are not intended for dissertation completion or for student recruitment, since other fellowship programs exist for those purposes.*

Given disciplinary and programmatic differences across campus, programs and their nominees will have broad latitude in defining the benchmarks that students will prepare for or complete. Some humanities programs, for example, have extensive reading lists that students must master for candidacy exams; some science programs may require students at a particular stage to acquire and demonstrate new laboratory methods or other techniques; programs in many disciplines across campus require dissertation prospectuses and, often, formal prospectus defenses. These benchmarks, among others, would be appropriate.

*Given the goals of the Summer Research Fellowships program, teaching assistants will not be eligible to teach during the summer of the award, and research assistants must be relieved of lab duties that do not directly advance their own research.*

#### Nominations

**Each doctoral program may nominate up to two graduate students for Summer Research Fellowships.**

Nomination packages from programs must include:

1. the Summer Research Fellowship nomination cover sheet;
2. a letter of recommendation from the program's Chair or Director of Graduate Studies nominating the student and addressing the student's outstanding qualifications, the significance of the student's scholarship or research, and the student's timely progress through the program (if applicable, a second letter from the major professor with whom the student is working may also be appended);
3. a specific proposal, prepared by the nominated student and no more than two pages, stating: a) the nature of the work to be accomplished during the summer and a plan for its execution; and b) the specific benchmark(s) that this award will enable the student to meet, as well as a clear indication of how the summer project fits within the program's timetable for completing graduation requirements; and
4. the student's *curriculum vitae* (no more than two pages).

The nomination cover sheet and the recommendation letter cover sheet are available for download here: [http://www.gradschool.umd.edu/prospective\\_students/gf\\_fellowships.html](http://www.gradschool.umd.edu/prospective_students/gf_fellowships.html)

***A nomination from a program will signify a cost-sharing commitment by the program on the terms specified under "Stipend and Cost-Sharing" below.***

### **Stipend and Cost-Sharing**

The Summer Research Fellowships program is envisaged as a partnership between the Graduate School and campus graduate programs. The Fellowships will carry stipends of \$5,000, shared on a \$2500 / \$2,500 basis by the Graduate School and the program making a nomination. ***Please note: Summer Research Fellowships carry no tuition remission.***

Summer Research Fellowships are awarded to specific students and are not transferable to other students. Should the nominated candidate decline the award, the Graduate School will return its portion of unused funding to the fellowship pool and the graduate program will retain its portion of unused funding.

### **Deadline**

Students should consult the Director of Graduate Studies for their program's deadline.

**The complete nomination packages from programs are due in the Graduate School by 12:00 noon on Tuesday, March 6, 2012.** Programs should submit each student's nomination package as a single pdf file attached to an email to [summer-fellowship@umd.edu](mailto:summer-fellowship@umd.edu)

### **Selection**

The Graduate School's Fellowship Committee, representing academic disciplines from across the campus, will evaluate the nominations. Selection decisions will be reached on the basis of the student's outstanding qualifications, the significance of the student's scholarship or research, the quality and feasibility of the proposed plan, and the student's timely progress through the program. It is expected that the cohort of awardees will reflect the University's commitment to diversity.

## **Reporting**

At the end of the academic year, the student will submit a brief but specific report (no more than one page in length), countersigned by the departmental Chair or Director of Graduate Studies, or the major professor with whom the student is working, on the work accomplished during the period of the award.

## **Contact**

Please direct any questions to:

Dr. Tita Chico, Associate Dean ([tchico@umd.edu](mailto:tchico@umd.edu)); or  
Robyn Kotzker, Program Management Specialist, ([rkotzker@umd.edu](mailto:rkotzker@umd.edu)), 301.405.0281

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