

TO: Graduate Program Directors and Graduate Program Coordinators

FROM: Lawrence B. Martin, Dean of the Graduate School

SUBJECT: **Call for Nominations for W. Burghardt Turner Fellowships 2012-2013**

DATE: Monday, November 28, 2011

The W. Burghardt Turner Fellowship Program continues to be a successful initiative to recruit students of high academic promise from groups historically underrepresented to Stony Brook University's graduate and professional degree programs, particularly the doctorate. Since 1987, over 395 Turner fellows have earned graduate degrees from Stony Brook. The Graduate School is now accepting nominations for 2012 Turner Fellows. Please note that nominees must be U.S. citizens, or have permanent resident status by the time they begin their Fellowship support. Priority consideration for Turner Fellowship awards will be given to Doctoral nominees.

As we currently do not have a NYS budget for 2012, and therefore do not know what the Turner budget will be in 2012-2013, we can only say that if the budget remains the same, we intend to make a total of 35 offers to yield approximately 17-20 Turner Fellows.

In response to the decision of the State University Board of Trustees in 2006, and pursuant to appropriations contained within the New York State Budget, "...the State University of New York offers graduate fellowships to students who have been admitted to graduate or professional study and who will contribute to the diversity of the student body, especially those who can demonstrate that they have overcome a disadvantage or other impediment to success in higher education. In awarding fellowships, programs may give consideration to students who are of a race or ethnicity that is underrepresented in its graduate and professional programs but may not make awards solely on that basis".

If you have any questions regarding the eligibility of an applicant or concerning this program, please feel free to contact Nina Maung, Assistant Dean for Diversity and Turner Director at "Nina.Maung@stonybrook.edu."

Eligibility and Award Structure

The duration of the Turner Fellowship award is five years for doctoral students, four years for medical school students, three years for MFA students and two years for master's students. Students who have earned a master's degree, or who are currently enrolled in a master's degree program, and now wish to pursue the doctorate are also eligible for nomination.

Students nominated for doctoral degree fellowships must have been offered admission to the program with full support. The submission of a nomination by the program implies agreement to provide a **minimum** of one half of one TA/GA/RA line plus full tuition scholarship for the duration of the five-year fellowship period. As in prior years, the Turner fellowship for Ph.D. students offers a \$50,000 fellowship supplement paid out as a supplement to program-level support (assistantship stipend, tuition scholarship, etc.) at the rate of \$10,000 per year for five years. Many programs have found it necessary to combine the Turner Fellowship with a full TA/GA line to make a competitive offer for these outstanding students. For programs that feel

that higher stipends are necessary, they may combine the \$10,000 Turner fellowship with a full stipend up to a maximum stipend award of \$30,000 per year over 12 months, or \$25,000 per year over a 10 month academic period.

Turner fellowships for new doctoral and MFA degree fellows for the 2012/2013 academic year will carry a standard fellowship portion of \$10,000 provided by the Graduate School and at least one half of one TA/GA/RA line at the minimum of \$7,572 (provided by the Graduate Program) for a total stipend of *at least* \$17,572 plus a full tuition scholarship and access to health insurance. The current tuition rate \$7,580 for one semester at out-of state rates and \$5,688 per semester for NYS residents.

The Turner fellowships for new master's degree fellows for the 2012/2013 academic year will carry a stipend of \$10,000, and provide a student health insurance plan plus a full tuition scholarship at the above-mentioned rates. The Masters level fellowships will be tenable for two years (subject to satisfactory academic progress) Departments are encouraged but not required to provide teaching or research assistantship opportunities as part of Turner nominee offer package as a means of recruiting competitive applicants when possible.

The goal of the Turner Fellowship program is to assist the graduate programs in achieving their recruitment goals. To that end, the Graduate School is open to alternative methods of configuring funding to recruit Turner Fellows in cases where the standard model has not yielded recent success. Additionally, graduate school guidelines set a maximum allowable award limit for graduate students not to exceed \$25,000 over 10 months, and \$30,000 over 12 months.

Nominations Procedures and Materials:

- 1. Identify the applicant in the Apply Yourself (AY) system by **Monday, February 13, 2012.**** You must have an AY account to accomplish this (detailed instructions are attached).
- 2. Submit a letter of nomination.** The letter must be written or endorsed by the Graduate Program Director. The nomination **MUST** include (a) specific reasons why the nominee is considered a top applicant, (b) a statement describing the criteria the program employs in making admissions decisions and an evaluation of the nominee against these criteria, (c) clearly address how the nominee will contribute to the diversity of the student body [if possible, share any information related to a disadvantage or impediment faced by the nominee with respect to their academic goals/experience].
- 3. An outline of the complete package of financial support offered:** show standard support package offered to the applicant by the department and how the program would propose to restructure if the \$10K is awarded.
- 4. A copy of the signed Offer of Admission Letter**
- 5. Submission of relevant transcripts in electronic (.pdf) format and GRE test results in electronic (.pdf) format**
- 6. Copies of three letters of recommendation from the application packet in electronic (.pdf) format.**
- 7. Electronic Copy of offer of admission and support issued to the applicant by the nominating graduate program.**
- 8. Electronic copy of the nominee's resumé or curriculum vita**
- 9. An electronic, one-page personal statement from the candidate stating the ways in which the candidate believes that the award of a Turner fellowship to him/her will benefit society at large.**

The Turner statement should also include what the candidate would contribute to the Turner Fellowship Program. Regarding the Turner personal statement, the review committee is interested in important experiences and activities that demonstrate the applicant's alignment with the goals and mission of the Turner Fellowship program. Turner Fellowship Awards are not solely based on the nominee's academic record. Along with strong academic qualification, we seek to select fellows who will serve as future leaders in their professions, their community, and the wider society. Complete details about the mission of the Turner Fellowship Program can be found on the Turner web site at www.grad.sunysb.edu/turner

The nomination materials (#2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8 and 9 above) must be submitted electronically via Lotus notes to "TurnerFellowships@notes.cc.sunysb.edu" by the Graduate Program Director **before close of business on the respective deadline dates.** If submitted by another person, the Graduate Program Director must be copied on the email. If you encounter problems compiling or sending the electronic nomination package, please contact Toni Sperzel at TurnerFellowships@notes.cc.sunysb.edu.

Deadlines

Complete Nomination dockets received by **Wednesday, February 15, 2012** will be reviewed in the **first round.** All nominees for round one must be identified within Apply Yourself by **Monday, February 13, 2012.**

A second round of nominations will be held in March only if slots remain. Nominations for a possible round two must be received by **March 2, 2012** for which these nominees must be identified within Apply Yourself by **February 28, 2012.**

A maximum of **five** nominations will be considered by any one graduate program or department. I urge you to submit your nominations for the first round as there may NOT be a second round. The earlier fellowship offers are made, the greater our success in attracting these students. In addition to the academic qualifications of your nominees, the committee will pay attention to these factors:

- ◆ The Turner Fellowship serves as a catalyst to increase representation of students from diverse cultural backgrounds Stony Brook's graduate programs
- ◆ An important mission of the Turner Fellowship is to encourage Turner Fellows to carry out their responsibility as future leaders and educators here in the United States.

cc: Without Attachments

Department Chairs

Deans Squires, Shamash, London, Schneider, Squires, Zhang, Lehmann, Brisbane, Kaushansky, Williams, Xippolitos

Dennis Assanis, Provost

Nancy Daneau, Deputy to the Vice President for Research

C. Taber, Associate Dean, The Graduate School

N. Maung, Asst. Dean for Diversity

Turner Fellowship Advisory Committee