

BY EMAIL : 11/30/2009

SENT TO: Graduate Program Directors

CC: Graduate Chairpersons, Graduate Council, Eric Kaler/Prov@SUNYSB, David Conover/MSRC, Richard Fine/UHMC, Yacov Shamash/CEAS, Nancy Squires/CAS@SUNYSB, Gail Habicht/Res, verbaarschot@cs.physics.sunysb.edu, Alicia Derosalia/Grad@SUNYSB, Barbara Byrne/Grad@SUNYSB, Charles Taber/CAS, Elizabeth Barnum/Grad, Kent Marks/Grad, Lori Carron/Grad, Nina Maung/Prov, Denise Johnson, Mary Messina Remmler/Prov, Graduate Program Coordinators

Dear Colleagues:

As announced at the October 2009 Graduate Directors' Retreat, the Graduate School plans to award ten new Graduate Council Fellowships (GCFs) for exceptionally qualified incoming Ph.D. and MFA students for Fall 2010. We expect to make offers to about 35-40 applicants to fill these ten positions. The fellowships are available to U.S. citizens and permanent residents only.

As in prior years, the Graduate Council fellowship offers up to \$50,000 additional support to attract our best domestic applicants. Historically, the fellowship is paid as a supplement to program-level support (assistantship stipend, tuition scholarship, etc.) at the rate of \$10,000 per year for five years. When coupled with TA/GA or RA support from the nominating graduate program (minimum* of half line per year for 5 years but a full line is encouraged), a full tuition scholarship and the GCF supplement this creates a five-year support package that is intended to provide an offer competitive with peer institutions.

Although the minimum support package of a GCF will remain at \$17,573/year (1/2 TA @ \$7,573 + 10,000), we have strong concerns that this GCF offer may no longer be sufficient to attract the best students given the small monetary differential between a full TA (\$15,145) and the minimum GCF package (\$17,573). As a stronger recruitment package we recommend that the \$50,000 GCF funding be used as a supplement to the existing offer as follows:

In the Humanities and Social Sciences, where the standard support package for Fall 2010 doctoral admits will be a \$15K TA stipend, we suggest that the program maintain its full TA line support to GCF awardee and supplement that TA funding with GCF funding as follows:

Years 1-4 Full TA at \$15,145, plus GCF supplement of \$ 7,000. Total stipend \$22,145.

Year 5 (could be earlier if that suited program better, so either a research or dissertation year). \$22,000 (balance of GCF funds) pure fellowship year, no stipend cost to program.

In the sciences, we recommend "topping off" year 1 & 2 standard stipends with a \$ 10K GCF supplement, fully supporting the GCF as an RA in years 3 & 4 (at comparable level to the year 1 & 2 funding) and then providing a dissertation (year 5) award comprised solely of the GCF stipend of \$30,000. In this manner, a GCF award could potentially provide 5 years of support at, or near, the NSF fellowship level of \$30K.

As always, students nominated for GCF's must have been admitted (evidenced by an offer of admission and full support issued prior to the date of nomination) to the relevant Ph.D. or MFA program and offered full support. **Each program may nominate up to five candidates.** Submission of a nomination by the program implies agreement, in the event the nomination is successful, that the program will honor its financial obligations in each academic year of the fellowship and will provide a full tuition scholarship from the program's tuition scholarship allocation.

Nomination Procedures:

1. Identify the applicant in the Apply Yourself (AY) system. You must have an AY account to accomplish this (detailed instructions are below).
2. Submit a letter of nomination. The letter must be written or endorsed by the Graduate Director. The nomination MUST include (1) specific reasons why the nominee is considered a top

- applicant, (2) a statement describing the criteria the program employs in making admissions decisions and an evaluation of the nominee against these criteria.
3. Provide a detailed description of the proposed GCF offer. Specifically, identify the extent and timing of programmatic support and the timing and amount of GCF support (not to exceed \$50,000 total over 5 years). See examples in instructions posted on the Graduate School web site. Programs are encouraged to provide comparative data with peer institutions and a statement regarding the competitiveness of the GCF offer. Nomination packages that do not include this information may not receive full consideration.
 4. Submission of relevant transcripts in electronic (pdf) format.
 5. Submission of the existing offer of admission and support issued to the applicant by the nominating graduate program.

All nominees must be identified within Apply Yourself by Thursday, January 28, 2010. All other nomination materials (#2, 3, 4 & 5, above) must be submitted electronically, via email, by the close of business on Monday, February 1, 2010. Additional instructions regarding the nomination process can be found at the Graduate School's website.

All nomination materials must be submitted via Lotus notes to Graduate_School_Finance. All submissions should be made by the Graduate Program Director or, if submitted by another person then the Graduate Program Director must be copied on the email. If you encounter problems compiling or sending the electronic nomination package, please contact Barbara Byrne at 2-7039.

These fellowships are an important and effective means to attract the best and brightest students to Stony Brook. The selection committee will review the nominations during the period of February 5-10, 2010 and will finalize its decisions by Friday, February 12, 2010 with awards announced by me shortly thereafter.

Please do not hesitate to contact me, Chuck Taber or Barbara Byrne you have any questions concerning this program. Best, LM.

Lawrence B. Martin, Ph.D.

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