

From: Lawrence Martin/Grad
To: Graduate Program Directors
Date: 12/21/2011
Subject: Graduate Council Fellowship Nominations

To Graduate Program Directors:

The Graduate School is pleased to announce this year's call for nominations for new Graduate Council Fellowships (GCFs) to be awarded to exceptionally qualified incoming doctoral and MFA students for Fall 2012. The fellowships are available to U.S. citizens and permanent residents only.

Last year's efforts to increase the yield was quite successful - 17 new Graduate Council Fellows were members of the 2011 cohort. In 2012 we have a targeted yield of 12 to 15 new fellows. We were also pleased by the results and feedback associated with last year's modification to the competition that had the Selection Committee separately score and rank applicants between two broad categories** and will use the same formula for the 2012 competition.

Humanities & Social Sciences

Including Art, Cultural Analysis and Theory, Ecology & Evolution, Economics, English, Hispanic Language & Literature, Interdepartmental Doctoral Program in Anthropological Sciences, Linguistics, Math, Music, Philosophy, Political Science, Psychology, Sociology

**Programs typically offer 4 years of academic year TA support at base stipend levels (~\$15k/yr)*

** GCF applicants typically have extremely high GRE scores and undergrad GPA*

Engineering & Bio/Natural Sciences

Including CEAS graduate programs, HSC graduate programs, MCB, BSB, Neuro, Chemistry, Geosciences, Marine and Atmospheric Sciences & Physics and Astronomy

**Programs typically offer 12-month stipends ranging from \$22-27K/year for the duration of the students doctoral career.*

** Applicant test scores not as high; Admission committees do not emphasize test scores but instead value research experience &/or recommendation letters*

*****if you want change the pool you participate in, please notify Barbara Byrne.***

We expect to make offers to approximately 42-48 applicants to fill these fellowship positions.

As in prior years, the Graduate Council fellowship offers \$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.). We recommend that the \$50,000 GCF funding be used as a supplement to the existing offer and not used to reduce or offset your program's cost.

In the Humanities and Social Sciences (where the standard support package for Fall 2011 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 to provide a research or dissertation year) \$22,000 (balance of GCF funds) pure fellowship year, no stipend cost to program.

In the Science/Engineering disciplines, we recommend supplementing the departmentally funded stipend to provide annual support of \$30,000 to \$33,000 per year (comparable to NSF Pre-doctoral fellowship support or your peer institutions). The balance of the GCF monies (~\$20K at \$4K per year for five years) should be offered to provide the GCF nominee with a sign-on bonus, laptop, travel allowance and/or annual research funds. Alternatively, programs are permitted to offer the standard annual stipend plus \$10K GCF supplement (for 5 years) to create a high-end stipend meant to rival other offers and address the cost of living on Long Island.

In both competitions, graduate programs may suggest alternative funding structures as long as at least 5 years of support is offered and the GCF-funded portion does not exceed \$50,000.

I will again ask the 2012 Graduate Council Fellowship and Awards Committee to include in their evaluation of GCF nominations whether the GCF offer produces a competitive stipend for that discipline. Nominations that do not propose a competitive offer will likely not be seriously considered.

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 doctoral 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.
2. Submit a letter of nomination. The letter must be written or endorsed by the Graduate Director. The nomination letter 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 (3) 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). ***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. If you do not have access to a scanner, you may e-fax the transcript to us at 632-2510.
5. Submission of the existing offer of admission and support issued to the applicant by the nominating graduate program. This letter can also be submitted using our e-fax, 632-2510.

All nominees must be identified within Apply Yourself by Monday, January 30, 2012. All other nomination materials (#2, 3, 4 & 5, above) must be submitted electronically, via email, by the close of business on Thursday, February 2, 2012.

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 Maureen Piekos at 2-1186.

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 7-15, 2012 and will finalize its decisions by Friday, February 17, 2012 with awards announced shortly thereafter.

Please do not hesitate to contact Barbara Byrne (2-7039) or me if you have any questions concerning this program.

Best, LM.

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