Ronald E. McNair Graduate Fellowships at the University of Maryland (AY 2016-2017)

Ronald E. McNair Graduate Fellowships support entering graduate students who are alumni or alumnae of a McNair Post-Baccalaureate Achievement Program. The Graduate School of the University of Maryland plans to award up to five McNair Graduate Fellowships for students enrolling at the University in the Fall of 2016, and may award additional fellowships if warranted by the number of outstanding nominations. Since the inauguration of the Ronald E. McNair Graduate Fellowship program, 28 exceptional students have been recruited to the University of Maryland.

Graduate programs admitting McNair Fellows must supplement the first-year McNair Graduate Fellowship support package with a three-year package of at least comparable fellowship and/or assistantship (GA or TA) support to begin during the year following the fellowship.

GUIDELINES

Award Details and Stipends

The McNair Graduate Fellowships program will provide entering graduate students with a first-year support package that includes an annual fellowship stipend of $25,000, a tuition award for Fall and Spring, a credit for mandatory fees, and reimbursement for individual health insurance coverage. The $25,000 stipend will be paid out in 3 installments: $10,000 in Fall, $10,000 in Spring, and $5,000 in summer. McNair Graduate Fellows are eligible for up to 12 credits of a fellowship tuition award per semester (Spring and Fall only) during this first year. This 9 ½ month tuition award package will be provided only for credits that are degree applicable.

Programs admitting McNair Fellows must commit to providing an additional three-year package of at least comparable annual GA, TA, and/or fellowship support comparable to that offered to students in your program. This support is to begin during the student's second year in the program.

The McNair Graduate Fellowship program provides full Graduate School support to the Fellow during the first year, allowing the McNair Fellows to focus fully on their academic studies. Employment during the first year is not allowed.

New: Beginning with the AY 15-16 McNair Fellow Cohort, the Graduate School will provide a one-semester dissertation fellowship for each McNair Fellow who has reached candidacy by the end of the third year of his or her program. This one-semester dissertation fellowship will carry a stipend of $12,500 and can be taken during the student’s fourth or fifth year. The McNair Fellow and the graduate program will have two options: 1) the student can take the fellowship during one semester and be released from assistantship duties; or 2) the student can use the fellowship over one year and have reduced half-time assistantship duties.

Eligibility

A nominee must be an alumnus or alumna of the McNair Post-Baccalaureate Achievement Program either at University of Maryland or elsewhere.
Candidates must be entering doctoral programs or masters programs that are part of or lead directly into doctoral programs. Students entering terminal master’s degree programs are not eligible.

Nomination Deadline

Nominations are due in the Graduate School by noon, on **Wednesday, February 10, 2016**.

Nomination Packages

All doctoral programs are eligible to nominate candidates; a program may nominate no more than two candidates. Nomination packages must be prepared in a single PDF file and should include the following:

1) a McNair Graduate Fellowship nomination cover sheet (available at [http://gradschool.umd.edu/funding/fellowships-awards/student-fellowships-awards/ronald-e-mcnair-graduate-fellowship](http://gradschool.umd.edu/funding/fellowships-awards/student-fellowships-awards/ronald-e-mcnair-graduate-fellowship))

2) a letter of nomination from the program’s Chair or DGS addressing the student’s qualifications and promise, including what contributions the student is likely to make to the program and the field;

3) a description of the three-year fellowship and/or the assistantship package (GA or TA) being offered by the program to the student. This support will begin for year 2 of the student’s program.

4) a verification letter from the McNair Post-Baccalaureate Achievement host program. *(Please contact the institution where applicant was a McNair Scholar)*

5) the student’s complete application to the program.

Submitting the Nomination

Please prepare the nomination in a single PDF file and submit the nomination to the Graduate School Awards System at [www.apps.gradschool.umd.edu/GSAwardsSystem](http://www.apps.gradschool.umd.edu/GSAwardsSystem).

Selection

Selection decisions will be based on excellence, understood as a convergence of the nominee’s grades and scores, statement of purpose from the nominee’s application to program, prior research or other original scholarship, letters of recommendation, and the program’s letter of support. The Graduate School will appoint a campus selection committee with broad disciplinary representation.

Recruitment Funds

It is expected that the program will actively recruit a successful nominee, including inviting the nominee to campus. Each award of a McNair Fellowship to a program, accordingly, will carry up to $1,000 for reimbursement of expenses associated with recruitment of a nominee. Reimbursement requests are to be sent to the Director of Administrative Services in the Graduate School ([paw@umd.edu](mailto:paw@umd.edu)).
Status of Recruitment

The program awarded a McNair Graduate Fellowship is expected to report on the status of its recruitment of the student in a timely fashion. In the event that the recruitment is not successful, the Graduate School can then offer the Fellowship to an alternate nominee, who may or may not be an applicant to the same program.

McNair Graduate Fellowships are awarded to programs for specific students and are not transferable to other students. Should the nominated candidate decline the Fellowship, the Graduate School will return unused funds to the McNair Graduate Fellowship pool.

Progress Reports

Programs will submit a brief report to the Graduate School on the progress of their McNair Graduate Fellow(s) at the conclusion of the Fellow’s first year. McNair Graduate Fellows will also submit a brief progress report at the conclusion of the first year.

Contact

Please direct any questions to: Dr. Mark Leone, Associate Dean (mleone@umd.edu); or Robyn Kotzker, Assistant Director for Fellowships and Awards at rkotzker@umd.edu, 301.405.0281.

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