THE
GRADUATE SCHOOL

UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND FLAGSHIP FELLOWSHIP
(AY 2024-25)

Flagship Fellowships are multi-year enhancement awards to be added to full-time assistantship/fellowship offers made by graduate programs. The Flagship Fellowship enhancement award totals up to $60,000 per student over the duration of the award. At the discretion of the individual program, the award may be spread over four years at $15,000 per year or five years at $12,000 per year.

The Graduate School will offer up to 70 Flagship Fellowships this year to help graduate programs compete successfully for superlative students. The Flagship Fellowship program helps recruit high-performing students, advances campus diversity objectives, and contributes to increasing degree completion and decreasing time-to-degree.

UMD departments and programs must nominate eligible students for the Flagship Fellowship Program.

Nomination and Selection Cycles

In order to accommodate the wide range of admission deadlines across campus, there are two nomination and selection cycles for the AY 24-25 Flagship Fellowship. Programs may submit nominations during either round or both rounds, as long as the total number of submissions does not exceed the nomination allocation schedule outlined in Appendix A.

	Nomination Deadline	Notice of Award Decision
Round 1	December 20, 2023	January 14, 2024
Round 2	February 5, 2024	February 27, 2024

Nominees not selected for an award in the first round would not be considered in the second round. Additionally, substitutions will not be permitted. Programs cannot nominate additional applicants in the second round to substitute for those not selected in the first round (or were selected but declined the award).

Stipends

Flagship Fellowships are enhancement awards added to base full-time fellowship/assistantship packages provided by programs to Flagship Fellows. These base packages must provide full-time support to the candidate and must extend for the duration of the Flagship Fellowship. Additionally, the base package must be comparable to those normally offered by the program and must meet or exceed guidelines for minimum stipends set annually by the Graduate School. (Minimum stipend levels can be found at go.umd.edu/minimum_stipends.) **Programs must commit to providing the base package at the time of nomination for a Flagship Fellowship,** and must notify the Graduate School of any subsequent changes in the proposed support package.

Flagship Fellowships are awarded to programs for specific students and are not transferable to other students. Should the awarded candidate decline the Fellowship, or should a student holding a Flagship

Fellowship graduate or leave the program with enhancement funding outstanding, the Graduate School will return unused funds to the Flagship Fellowship pool.

Eligibility

Candidates must be Ph.D. applicants for Fall 2024 with exceptional qualifications and with clear promise for outstanding performance in doctoral study.

Nomination Packages

All Ph.D. programs are eligible to nominate candidates for the Flagship Fellowship. Based on the 3-year average of degrees conferred, a nomination allocation schedule has been prepared and can be found in Appendix A. Please note, specializations and/or concentration areas within a degree program are not considered to be separate programs.

In making nominations, programs are urged to consider the University's commitment to diversity.

Nomination materials must include the following:

1. a **Flagship Fellowship cover sheet**

2. **a letter of nomination** from the program's Chair or DGS, or the major professor with whom the student would work, addressing the student's exceptional qualifications and promise, including what distinguishes the student from other top applicants to the program and what contributions the student is likely to make to the program and the field. Letter writers should not make any reference to standardized testing scores.

3. a **description of the base fellowship/assistantship support** being offered by the program to the student (these base packages must extend at least for the duration of the Flagship Fellowship, and must meet or exceed guidelines for minimum stipends for fellowships and/or assistantships set annually by the Graduate School; it is expected that these base packages will be at least comparable to those normally offered by the program); and

4. **nominee's complete application** will be reviewed by the selection committee, but the program does not submit the student's application during the nomination process. Instead, the committee will access the application in TerpEngage.

Programs must gather the first three items listed above and prepare each one as a PDF file. The three PDF files must be submitted to the Graduate School Awards Portal at **terpengage.umd.edu/gsawards/s/** by the nomination deadline.

Fellowship Selection Process

A committee with broad disciplinary representation, appointed by the Graduate School, will serve as the selection committee. Selection decisions will be based on excellence, understood as a convergence of the nominee's academic success, statement of purpose, prior research or other original scholarship, letters of recommendation, and the program's letter of nomination.

The Flagship Fellowship selection committee will not consider GRE scores or other standardized test scores during their evaluations.

Award decisions are expected in mid-February. It is expected that the cohort of awardees will reflect the University's commitment to diversity, including disciplinary diversity.

Recruitment Funds

It is expected that the program will actively recruit a successful nominee, including inviting the nominee to campus. Accordingly, the Graduate School will reimburse programs up to $1,000 for expenses associated with recruitment of an awarded student. Reimbursement requests are to be sent to Patricia Woodwell, Director of Administrative Services in the Graduate School at paw@umd.edu.

Status of Recruitment

The program awarded a Flagship Fellowship is expected to report on the status of its recruitment of the candidate 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.

Progress Reports

Programs will submit a brief annual report to the Graduate School on the progress of their Flagship Fellow(s). Flagship Fellows also will submit a brief annual progress report. The program and the Graduate School will confer regarding any Fellow who experiences significant academic difficulty during the year and will establish benchmarks for monitoring the student's progress. Continuation of the Flagship Fellowship will be contingent upon the student's resumption of timely and satisfactory progress.

Because the Flagship Fellowships are intended for exceptional students, continuation of the Fellowship from year to year is predicated on the student's making timely and satisfactory progress to degree.

Contact

Please direct any questions to Robyn Kotzker in the Office of Funding Opportunities at rkotzker@umd.edu or 301.405.0281.

APPENDIX A

Nomination Allocation Schedule	
AY 2024-25 Flagship Fellowship Competition	
3-year Average of PhD Degrees Conferred	**Nomination Allocation**
26 + degrees	5
11 - 25 degrees	4
6 - 10 degrees	3
5 or fewer degrees	2

Program	**Nomination Allocation**
CMSC - Computer Science	5
ENEE - Electrical Engineering	5
ENME - Mechanical Engineering	5
PHYS - Physics	5
BIOE - Bioengineering	4
BISI - Biological Sciences	4
BPHD - Business and Management	4
CHEM - Chemistry	4
ECON - Economics	4
ENAE - Aerospace Engineering	4
ENCE -Civil Engineering	4
ENGL - English Language & Literature	4
MATH - Mathematics	4
MEES - Marine, Estuarine, & Environmental Sciences	4
TLPL – Teaching and Learning, Policy and Leadership	4
AMSC - Applied Mathematics, Statistics, Scientific Comp	3
AOSC - Atmospheric and Oceanic Science	3
BCHL - Behavioral and Community Health	3
BCHM - Biochemistry	3
COMM - Communication	3
ENCH - Chemical Engineering	3
ENMA - Materials Science and Engineering	3
GEOG - Geographical Sciences	3
GEOL - Geology	3
GVPT - Government and Politics	3
HIST - History	3
INFS – Information Studies	3
LING - Linguistics	3
NACS - Neuroscience and Cognitive Science	3
POSI - Policy Studies	3
PSYC - Psychology	3
SOCY - Sociology	3
ALL OTHER PhD PROGRAMS	2