



UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND PRESIDENT'S FELLOWSHIP (AY 2024-25)

In accordance with our core values, mission, and desire to create a more diverse, inclusive, and equitable campus environment, we are launching a new diversity initiative, the President's Fellowship, aimed at recruiting outstanding doctoral students. The goal is to increase Ph.D. program diversity by recruiting and retaining top doctoral students based on their contributions to program diversity.

President's Fellowships are multi-year enhancement awards to be added to full assistantship and fellowship support offers normally made by graduate programs. The President's Fellowship may total up to \$40,000 per student over the duration of the award. Graduate programs must commit to sharing the cost of the President's Fellowship, as described below.

We encourage nominations of applicants who would increase representation in programs where minority students are underrepresented. The Graduate School will offer up to 50 President's Fellowships this year to help graduate programs compete successfully for superlative students. The President's 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 President's 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 President's 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).

Eligibility

All US citizens and permanent residents entering Ph.D. programs in Fall 2024 are eligible. Successful candidates will have exceptional qualifications, clear promise for outstanding performance in doctoral study, and would contribute to program diversity and increase representation in programs where minorities are underrepresented. For questions about eligibility, please contact Robyn Kotzker at rkotzker@umd.edu.

Stipends and Cost Sharing

President's Fellowships are enhancement awards added to base fellowship/assistantship packages provided by programs. These base packages must provide full-time support to the candidate and must extend for the duration of the President's Fellowship. 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 President's Fellowship, and the Graduate School must approve any subsequent changes in the proposed base support package.**

In addition to the base funding, the program must share the cost of the President's Fellowship. The program and/or college must provide \$10,000; the Graduate School will provide the remaining \$30,000. **A nomination from a program will signify commitment to this cost-sharing agreement.**

Programs have flexibility in the use of the President's Fellowship, but the required program or program/college cost-share funding must be used first, before Graduate School funds are expended. For example, a program could provide a \$10,000 stipend enhancement in year 1, and the Graduate School could provide a \$10,000 stipend enhancement in years 2, 3, and 4 (in addition to the base support provided by the program in years 1-4). The nomination should specify how the enhancement would be used (e.g., stipend enhancement, summer research support, etc.), but the allocation can be modified at the request of the program, with Graduate School approval.

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

Nomination Packages

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

Nomination packages must include the following:

1. **President's Fellowship cover sheet**
2. **Letter of nomination** from the program's Chair or DGS, or the student's prospective advisor, addressing the student's exceptional qualifications and promise, what contributions the student is likely to make to the program and the field, and what contribution the student would make to program diversity. Letter writers should not make any reference to standardized testing scores. The letter should cite evidence of the program's commitment to the successful mentoring of diverse doctoral students. This could include training in holistic admission, department actions to create a supportive environment for diverse students, past success in recruiting and graduating diverse students, or training in best practices in mentoring graduate students (particularly by the student's likely advisor).
3. **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 President's 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).
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.

Note that an applicant may be nominated for both the Flagship Fellowship and the President's Fellowship, but may receive only one of these awards. We strongly encourage programs to nominate their most outstanding applicants for the Flagship Fellowship, and we will continue to emphasize diversity in the Flagship Fellowship selection process.

Fellowship Selection Process

A diverse committee with broad disciplinary representation, appointed by the Graduate School, will serve as the selection committee. Selection decisions will be based on the nominee's 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, and the ability of the nominee to enhance program diversity. The selection committee will not consider GRE or other standardized test scores during their evaluations.

Award decisions for round 1 will be made by mid-January, and award decisions for round 2 should be sent by the end of February. The cohort of awardees will reflect the University's commitment to 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, Finance & Administration in the Graduate School at paw@umd.edu.

Status of Recruitment

The program awarded a President's Fellowship is expected to report on the status of its recruitment of the candidate in a timely fashion. Should the awarded candidate decline the Fellowship, the unused funds will be returned to the President's Fellowship pool.

Progress Reports

Programs will submit a brief annual report to the Graduate School on the progress of their President's Fellow(s), including the support the programs have provided (e.g., dedicated training/mentoring programs for President's Fellows, "buddy" systems to provide peer mentors for President's Fellows, regular meetings with department leadership to provide support, etc.). President's Fellows will also 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 President's Fellowship will be contingent upon the student's resumption of timely and satisfactory progress.

Because the President's Fellowships are intended for exceptional students, continuation of the Fellowship is predicated on the student maintaining full-time status and 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 2023-24 President's 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