



UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND FLAGSHIP FELLOWSHIP (AY 2025-26)

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 40 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 DEADLINE: Noon, Wednesday, January 22, 2025.

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 2025. U.S citizens and international students are eligible for nomination. All candidates will have exceptional qualifications and with clear promise for outstanding performance in doctoral study.

Programs must recommend their nominee(s) for admission prior to making the nomination.

Candidates who will have an assistantship as their base support must have U.S. citizenship, valid visa status, or valid work authorization.

Nomination Packages

All Ph.D. programs are eligible to nominate up to two (2) candidates for the Flagship Fellowship. Please note, specializations and/or concentration areas within a degree program are not considered to be separate programs.

Nomination materials must include the following:

1. a **Flagship Fellowship cover sheet**
2. a **letter of nomination** from the program's Chair, DGS, or the major professor with whom the student would work. The nomination letter should address 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. Additionally, letter writers should convey information about the student's fit within the program.

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).

Candidates who will have an assistantship as their base support must have U.S. citizenship, valid visa status, or valid work authorization.

4. **School of Public Health programs** that accept applications through SOPHAS will be required to submit the student's SOPHAS application.

Programs must prepare the above items as three (or four) individual PDF files and submit to the Graduate School Awards Portal at terpengage.umd.edu/gsawards/s/ by the nomination deadline. At the time of nomination, TerpEngage will prompt nominators to select the correct application (the correct APP-ID).

An applicant may be nominated for the Flagship 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 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. Please submit your reimbursement request to the Graduate School using this [Reimbursement Request Form](#).

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. Should the awarded candidate decline the Fellowship, the unused funds will be returned to the Flagship Fellowship pool.

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.

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