



GRADUATE SCHOOL SUMMER RESEARCH FELLOWSHIP (FOR SUMMER 2026)

In partnership with University of Maryland doctoral programs, the Graduate School is pleased to offer the Summer Research Fellowship program. These summer fellowships support research activities that advance a doctoral student's progress toward degree and provide doctoral students the opportunity to concentrate fully on their own research and scholarship during the summer.

Eligible students will have excellent qualifications, will be making demonstrable progress through their program, and will be able to show that a summer of focused research will enable them **to prepare for or complete a key benchmark** in their program's requirements. *The specific goal of the fellowship is to help students to take a significant step toward the completion of their degree. The overall goals of the program are to reduce time-to-degree, increase degree completion, and enhance the quality of the graduate student experience.*

The Summer Research Fellowships program carry a stipend of \$5,000, with the specific cost-share requirements outlined in the "Fellowship Stipend and Cost Sharing" section.

Each University of Maryland Ph.D. program may nominate up to 2 eligible students for the Summer Research Fellowship.

NOMINATION DEADLINE: Noon, Wednesday, March 4, 2026.

Eligibility

Eligible candidates are University of Maryland doctoral students who are at "mid-career," that is, in the period approximately before, during, or after achievement of candidacy.

The Summer Research Fellowships provide full support for students for the summer in order to provide time to fully focus on their summer research activities. The Summer Research Fellowship does not supplement a student's graduate assistantship stipend. The Summer Fellowship funding replaces the student's summer stipend or salary. Therefore, students who receive the Summer Research Fellowship must be relieved of their graduate assistantship over the summer.

- Teaching assistants and administrative assistants are not eligible to teach or work during the summer of the award.
- Research assistants who must be in the lab to do their project must be relieved of lab duties that are not related to their research.

Students may receive the Summer Research Fellowship only once. Fellowships may not be deferred. The Summer Research Fellowships carry **no tuition remission**

A student may not be nominated concurrently for the Summer Research Fellowship and the Summer Internship Fellowship in the same award year. Separate nominations for separate years are permitted.

Fellowship Stipend and Cost-Sharing

The Summer Research Fellowships are designed to be a partnership between the Graduate School and campus doctoral programs. The Fellowship stipend of \$5,000 is shared on a \$2,500 / \$2,500 basis by the Graduate School and the program making a nomination. **A nomination from a program will signify commitment to the cost-sharing agreement.**

These summer fellowships are awarded to specific students and are not transferable to other students. Should the awarded student decline the award, the Graduate School will return its portion of unused funding to the fellowship pool and graduate programs will retain their portion of unused funding.

The Key Benchmark

Given disciplinary and programmatic differences across campus, programs and their nominees will have broad latitude in defining the key benchmarks that students will prepare for or complete. Some humanities programs, for example, have extensive reading lists that students must master for candidacy exams; some science programs may require students at a particular stage to acquire and demonstrate new laboratory methods or other techniques; programs in many disciplines across campus require dissertation prospectuses and, often, formal prospectus defenses. These benchmarks, among others, would be appropriate.

Fellowship Selection Process

The Graduate School's Fellowship Selection Committee, representing academic disciplines from across the campus, will evaluate the nominations.

Selection decisions will be reached on the basis of the student's outstanding qualifications, the significance of the student's scholarship or research, the quality and feasibility of the proposed plan, and the student's timely progress through the program.

Nominations

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

Nomination Packages

Please visit [Summer Research Fellowship Web page](#) for all necessary forms. Nomination packages from departments or programs must include:

Summer Research Fellowship Nomination packages

1. **The Summer Fellowship Nomination Cover Sheet.**
 2. A student-written proposal, no more than two pages, stating:
 - a) the nature of the research to be accomplished during the summer;
 - b) a plan for its execution;
 - c) the specific benchmark(s) that this award will enable the student to meet; and
 - d) a clear indication of how the summer project fits within the program's timetable for completing graduation requirements
- Students are asked to write for an educated lay audience.**
3. **The student's curriculum vitae** (no more than two pages)
 4. **A letter from the student's advisor** or the major professor that addresses the student's outstanding qualifications, the significance of the student's scholarship or research, and the student's timely progress through the program
1. **The DGS Questionnaire:** We ask the Director of Graduate Studies to complete the DGS Questionnaire in order to better inform the committee about disciplinary and programmatic differences. *(If the student's advisor is also the Director of Graduate Studies, the Program/Department Chair should complete the questionnaire).*

Programs must gather the above materials, then submit the five (5) files to the Graduate School by the deadline. *(Do not combine the files.)* Please submit complete nomination on the Graduate School Awards Portal terpengage.umd.edu/gsawards/s/.

Reporting

At the end of the summer, the Summer Research Fellows will be asked to submit a one-page overview of the progress made on their summer project.

Contact

Please direct questions to Program Director Robyn Kotzker in the Office of Funding Opportunities (rkotzker@umd.edu / 5-0281).