KULKARNI ENDOWED SUMMER RESEARCH FELLOWSHIPS
(FOR SUMMER 2026)

Dr. Ashok Kulkarni, a distinguished alumnus of the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) and the University of Maryland Graduate School, generously endowed the Kulkarni Fellowships. They are intended specifically to help graduates of IIT enrolled in post-graduate studies at the University of Maryland to achieve their academic goals.

Alumnus Ashok Kulkarni (PhD, '76, computer science), and his wife Ranjana, have a long history of educational philanthropy. The private family foundation they founded, the Kulkarni Foundation, has helped build two schools for underserved youth in rural India and supported vocational training for physically challenged children, and funded a scholarship program at Dr. Kulkarni's undergraduate alma mater, the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT).

The Kulkarni Fellowships provide research support for doctoral students at "mid-career" and enables the recipient to devote a summer of focused work to prepare for or complete a key benchmark in their program. The Kulkarni Endowment Fund provides research support for 1 or 2 students each year.

The Fellowships carry a stipend of $8,000 for summer support. Tuition Assistance is not available.

NOMINATION DEADLINE: Noon, Wednesday, March 4, 2026.
(Students, please consult with your program for internal deadlines)

Eligibility Requirements

Currently enrolled University of Maryland doctoral students who are graduates of Indian Institute of Technology may be nominated for this fellowship. Programs may nominate up to two graduate students for Kulkarni Summer Research Fellowship.

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 work will enable them *to prepare for or complete a key benchmark* in their program's requirements.

Eligible students must be in "mid-career," that is, in the period approximately before, during, or after advancement to doctoral candidacy.

The Kulkarni Summer Research Fellowship provides support over the summer. Kulkarni Summer Research Fellows may not hold the Kulkarni Summer Research Fellowship and a graduate assistantship concurrently.

Students may receive the Kulkarni Summer Research Fellowship only one time. Fellowships may not be deferred.

updated August 2025

Fellowship Selection

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

Fellowships are awarded to specific students and are not transferable to other students. Should the awarded candidate decline the award, the funds will remain in the Kulkarni Endowment Fund.

Nomination Instructions

Nomination from programs must include:

1. The **Kulkarni Summer Research Fellowship Nomination Cover Sheet** (found on page 3)

2. **A student-written proposal**, 2-page maximum, that includes:
   a. the nature of the work 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. A **letter from the student's advisor or the major professor** with whom the student is working. This letter should address the student's outstanding qualifications, the significance of the student's scholarship or research, and the student's timely progress through the program.

4. A **DGS Questionnaire** completed by the Director of Graduate Studies. We ask the Director of Graduate Studies to complete this 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).*

5. The **student's brief** *curriculum vitae* (no more than two pages).

Programs: Please gather the above materials and submit them (individually) to the Graduate School Awards Portal at https://terpengage.umd.edu/gsawards/s/ by the deadline.

Reporting: At the end of the academic year, the student will submit to the Graduate School a brief but specific report (no more than one page in length)

Contact: Please direct questions to Program Director Robyn Kotzker (rkotzker@umd.edu, 301.405.0281)

KULKARNI SUMMER FELLOWSHIP NOMINATION COVER SHEET

A complete nomination package must include: 1) This nomination cover sheet; 2) the student proposal (no more than two pages); 3) a letter of recommendation from the student's advisor; 4) a completed questionnaire from the Director of Graduate Studies; and 5) the student's cv (no more than two pages).

The department gathers the nomination materials and submits the nomination to the Awards Portal by the deadline. **Nomination Deadline is Wednesday, March 4, 2026, noon.**

Name: _____ UID Number: _____

Nominee's Directory ID (or UMD Email): _____ Phone: _____

Program/Department & College (use 4-letter codes): _____

Title of Dissertation (or project name): _____

1. Current Stage in Program: _____

2. Current GPA: _____

3. Expected Candidacy Date: _____

4. Expected Graduate Date, if known _____

Advisor (name, email) _____

Director of Graduate Studies (name, email): _____

Department Coordinator (name, email) _____

Business Manager (name, email): _____

The Kulkarni Summer Research Fellowship is full support over the summer. Nominees acknowledge that awardees are not permitted to hold this Fellowship and a graduate assistantship concurrently.

Please initial acknowledgment of the above statement _____

Students: Please submit your Kulkarni Summer Fellowship application materials to your program
Departments: Please submit the nomination to https://terpengage.umd.edu/gsawards/s/
Questions: Email Robyn Kotzker at rkotzker@umd.edu.

Updated August 2025