Kulkarni Foundation Tuition Assistance Award
(AY 26-27)

Dr. Ashok Kulkarni, a distinguished alumnus of the India Institute of Technology and the University of Maryland Graduate School, generously endowed the **Kulkarni Foundation Tuition Assistance Award**. The Award provides support to doctoral students who are in the latter stages of their UMD doctoral program. Nominees must be first-generation, demonstrate financial need, and be engaged in dissertation research that benefits disadvantaged communities.

The Tuition Assistance Award offers $3,500 to offset the cost of candidacy tuition (e.g., 899 credits), mandatory fees, and other educational costs.

Eligibility

To be eligible for the Kulkarni Foundation Tuition Assistance Award competition, the nominee must

- be a first-generation PhD student enrolled in a UMD doctoral program
- be in the latter stages of their program (preferably their final year)
- demonstrate financial need
- be engaged in dissertation research that benefits disadvantaged communities

Please note, students who have graduate assistantship or fellowship support in AY 26-27 are not eligible for the AY 26-27 Kulkarni Foundation Tuition Assistance Award.

Nomination Deadline: Wednesday, January 28, 2026.

Nomination Instructions

A complete nomination must include:

1. **The Kulkarni Foundation Tuition Assistance Award Cover Sheet (on page 2)**
2. **Student-written statement** expressing financial need and how receiving this award will assist in writing/finishing doctoral completion. This statement should also provide information about how the dissertation research will benefit disadvantaged communities. (2-page maximum)
3. **Student's brief CV** (2-page maximum)
4. **Letter of support** from the student's Advisor. This letter should confirm the student is in good standing, explain why this student is being nominated, and confirm the student's timeline for graduation.

Students, please gather your cover sheet, student-written statement, and CV and submit them to your program's coordinator. **Advisors**, please prepare your letter of support and submit it to your program's coordinator.

Programs, please submit the nomination package to the Graduate School Awards Portal.

UNIVERSITY OF **MARYLAND** *FEARLESSLY FORWARD*

THE GRADUATE SCHOOL

Kulkarni Foundation Tuition Assistance Award
Cover Sheet

A complete nomination must include: 1) This cover sheet; 2) the student-written statement (no more than two pages); 3) student's CV (no more than 2 pages); and 4) letter of support from the student's advisor.

Nomination Deadline: **Wednesday, January 28, 2026.**

Student's Name: _____ Date _____

UMD Email Address: _____

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

As of Fall 2026, I am in the _____ year in the program *(1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th…)*

I am a first Generation Student ___YES ___NO

Date of reaching Candidacy _____ Expected date of graduation: _____

What is the Title of your Dissertation: _____

Student's Advisor _____

Department's Director of Graduate Studies _____

Department Coordinator _____

What was the source of support for AY 23-24? _____

What was the source of support for AY 24-25? _____

What is the source of support for AY 25-26? _____

Director of Graduate Students Signature_____

Note: Students who have graduate assistantship or fellowship support in AY 26-27 are not eligible for the AY 26-27 Kulkarni Foundation Tuition Assistance Award.

Programs: Please gather nomination materials as separate PDF files, then submit the nomination to the Graduate School Awards Portal at https://terpengage.umd.edu/gsawards/s/

Questions: Please contact Robyn Kotzker (rkotzker@umd.edu).