



Ronald E. McNair Doctoral Fellowship (AY 2026-2027)

Ronald E. McNair Doctoral Fellowships support entering graduate students who are alumni of a McNair Post-Baccalaureate Achievement Program. This Fellowship is a partnership between the Graduate School and UMD programs. It supports the McNair Fellow and enhances their student experience while working toward their doctoral degree. Since the inauguration of the Ronald E. McNair Doctoral Fellowship program, 65 exceptional students have been recruited to UMD.

The Ronald E. McNair Doctoral Fellowship provides support to awarded students throughout the entirety of their doctoral career. The Fellowship enhances a program's standard support package and may total up to \$50,000 per student in support over the duration of the award.

The \$50,000 McNair Doctoral Fellowship is cost shared with the program. The program and/or college must commit to provide \$7,500 towards the McNair Fellowship; the Graduate School will provide the remaining \$42,500. A nomination from a program will signify commitment to this cost-sharing agreement.

The McNair Fellowship is an enhancement to the program's 4-year base support package. The program's base support package for the McNair Fellowship includes a half-time fellowship/assistantship support for year 1 and full-time fellowship/assistantship support for years 2, 3, and 4. **Programs must commit to providing this base support package, plus the \$7,500 cost-share, at the time of nomination for a McNair Doctoral Fellowship.**

NOMINATION DEADLINE: Noon, Friday, January 30, 2026, PREFERRED.

Nominations submitted after this date will be considered if funding is still available.

Eligibility

Nominees must be alumni of a McNair Post-Baccalaureate Achievement Program, and must be a graduate student who is planning to enroll in a PhD program in the fall 2026 semester. All PhD programs at University of Maryland, College Park, are eligible to nominate candidates. Programs must recommend their nominee(s) for admission prior to making the nomination.

The nomination package must show a commitment to provide the prospective McNair Doctoral Fellow with support outlined in the "Fellowship Stipend and Benefits" Section. Programs must clearly state they will **1)** provide a half-time assistantship/fellowship support during the first year, **2)** provide full-time assistantship/fellowship support during years 2, 3, and 4, and **3)** agree to \$7500 McNair cost-share requirement (see chart on page 2).

Fellowship Stipends and Benefits

Stipends

The McNair Doctoral Fellowship enhances the program's four-year support package with \$50,000 in support over 4.5 years (\$42,500 from the Graduate School and \$7,500 from the program). The \$7,500 cost-share can be funds from the program and/or college; the cost-share support cannot be funded by Dean's Fellowships.

The first year will include a half-time assistantship (10 hours per week) or fellowship from the program, and a \$12,500 McNair stipend from the Graduate School. For years 2, 3 and 4, the program will provide a full-time assistantship/fellowship and the Graduate School will provide a \$5,000 McNair stipend each academic year.

McNair Doctoral Fellowship Support for Fall 2026 Cohort

(suggested timeline – can be changed upon request, as noted below)

Academic Year	Graduate School Support	Program Supplementary Support	Program Base Support
2026-27	\$12,500	\$2,500 Grant* (program cost-share support)	HALF-TIME assistantship (or half fellowship with half tuition)
2027-28	\$5,000		FULL-TIME assistantship
Summer 2028		\$5,000 Summer Fellowship** (program cost-share support)	NONE while on a \$5,000 fellowship
2028-29	\$5,000		FULL-TIME assistantship (or full fellowship with tuition)
2029-30	\$5,000		FULL-TIME assistantship (or full fellowship with tuition)
Fall 2030	\$15,000 Dissertation Fellowship		NONE while on a \$15,000 fellowship

* The \$2,500 grant is designed to help pay for technology needs, books, travel, or other research-related expenses. This \$2,500 grant is part of the program cost-share requirement and **will be administered by the program**.

** The \$5,000 Summer Fellowship is designed to support a McNair Fellow in summer 2028 to work on a project that helps them significantly advance them through the program. This \$5,000 award is part of the program's cost-share requirement and **will be administered by the program**. The funds can be paid to the student as a program fellowship, or if the student holds a 12 month GAsip, the student can retain the GAsip and be relieved of duties over the summer.

NOTES:

The Graduate School recommends that McNair Doctoral Fellows hold a half-time assistantship/fellowship in year one, but programs may request a different timeline. To request a different timeline, programs must contact the Graduate School.

Based on the student's progress, the \$5,000 McNair Summer Fellowship and the McNair Dissertation Fellowship can be disbursed on a different timeline. To request a different timeline, programs must contact the Graduate School.

Tuition

McNair Fellows are eligible to receive up to 10 credits of tuition remission each semester. For the first year, 5 credits will be paid by the half-time assistantship, and five credits will be paid by the McNair Doctoral Fellowship. In years 2, 3, and 4, the 10 credits of tuition remission will be paid by the full-time assistantship, unless the program chooses to provide a full or partial fellowship in those years.

McNair Summer Fellowship and Dissertation Fellowship

The \$5,000 McNair Summer Fellowship (summer 2028) and the \$15,000 McNair Dissertation Fellowship (Fall 2030) are available for McNair Fellows who remain in good academic standing. The McNair Dissertation Fellowship are considered full support; therefore, students must be released from assistantship responsibilities while taking the summer or semester award.

Health Insurance

All graduate students must have health insurance. The default insurance is the Student Health Insurance Plan (SHIP). McNair Doctoral Fellows who hold a full or half graduate assistantship have an option to opt in to a State of Maryland Health Insurance plan. If choosing a State of Maryland plan, you must submit a SHIP waiver. More information about the SHIP enrollment and waiver process is found on the Graduate School's Health Information page at gradschool.umd.edu/health-insurance.

Office of Graduate Recruitment and Community

Through the [Office of Graduate Recruitment and Community \(OGRC\)](#), McNair Fellows will have opportunities to attend sessions focused on mentoring, networking, writing retreats, work/life/school balance, and professional and career development. Community building is an added component to all sessions.

Students have been awarded prestigious recruitment awards such as the McNair Fellowship, Flagship Fellowship and President's Fellowship become members of the Graduate School's [Society of Fellows](#).

Nomination Packages

Students must be recommended for admission in TerpEngage prior to nomination. Programs can nominate up to two students for the McNair Doctoral Fellowship. A complete nomination includes the following.

- 1) **McNair Doctoral Fellowship** cover sheet (on page 5)
- 2) **Letter of nomination** from the program's Chair or DGS, or the student's prospective advisor.
 - a. The letter of nomination should address the student's exceptional qualifications and promise, and include what contributions the student is likely to make to the program and the field.
 - b. Please do not make any reference to standardized testing scores.
 - c. 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, 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 McNair Fellowship. It is expected that these base packages will be at least comparable to those normally offered by the program. Please note that assistantship support in year 1 normally must be half-time (10 hours) unless special circumstances justify moving the half-GA year to another year. Support in years 2, 3, and 4 must be full-time (20 hours).
- 4) **Nominee's complete application** will be made available to the selection committee in TerpEngage. (The School of Public Health will need to upload the student's SOPHAS application.)

Programs, please gather 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.

Selection Process

Selection decisions are based on excellence, understood as a convergence of the nominee's grades, statement of purpose from the nominee's application to program, prior research or other original scholarship, and the letters of recommendation from the nominee's application to the program. It is also important that the nomination package outline commitment to the McNair Doctoral Fellowship program.

Status of Recruitment of the McNair Fellow

The program awarded a McNair Doctoral Fellowship is expected to report on the status of its recruitment of the student in a timely fashion. In the event that the recruitment is not successful, the Graduate School can then offer the Fellowship to an alternate nominee, who may or may not be an applicant to the same program.

McNair Doctoral Fellowships are awarded to programs for specific students and are not transferable to other students. Should the awarded student decline the Fellowship, the Graduate School will return unused funds to the McNair Graduate Fellowship pool.

Reports

McNair Doctoral Fellows will be expected to submit a brief report each year.

Contact

Please direct any questions to Program Director Robyn Kotzker, Graduate School Office of Funding Opportunities, at rkotzker@umd.edu or 301.405.0281.



Ronald E. McNair Graduate Fellowship Nomination Cover Sheet for AY 2026-27

A complete nomination package includes: 1) this McNair Fellowship cover sheet; 2) a letter of nomination from the program's Chair or DGS, or the major professor with whom the student would work; 3) a description of the base fellowship/assistantship support being offered by the program to the student; and 4) the student's complete application to the program (committee will access the application within TerpEngage). *SPHL programs must additionally provide the student's SOPHAS application materials*

To make a nomination, programs need to gather items #1, 2, and 3 listed above. Do not combine files. The three (four, if SPHL) files must be submitted to the Graduate School Awards Portal at terpengage.umd.edu/gsawards/s/ by noon, January 31, 2025.

NOMINATION DEADLINE: January 30, 2026, PREFERRED

Nominee's Name: _____

University ID Number: _____

APP-ID Number: _____

Nominee's Email: _____

UMD Ph.D. Program _____

Undergraduate Institution: _____

Undergraduate Degree: _____ GPA: _____ Date of Degree: _____

Current Graduate Institution (if applicable): _____

Graduate Degree: _____ GPA: _____ Date of Degree: _____

McNair Post-Baccalaureate Achievement Host Program: _____
(if different than undergraduate Institution)

Prospective Advisor _____

Director of Graduate Studies _____

Coordinator _____