

Arshad H. and Suellen H. Rizvi Endowed Graduate Fellowship for the University of Maryland

Summer 2026

The Arshad H. and Suellen H. Rizvi Endowed Graduate Fellowship was established in 2025 and provides support for graduate students pursuing a degree in any graduate program at the University of Maryland and who demonstrate a financial barrier that may restrict them from attending or graduating from the university. Preference will be given to students who have graduated from a university in Pakistan or who are affiliated with UMD's Pakistani Student Association. Additionally, students pursuing degrees in the fields of sociology, criminology, IT, engineering and related disciplines will receive priority consideration for this award.

Awards will be made in the number and amount deemed most impactful by the dean of The Graduate School or their designee(s), considering student needs and unique circumstances, with an expectation of 1-3 awards per year. The maximum award is \$7,500. Funds are to be used to offset the cost of tuition, mandatory fees, and other educational costs.

Dr. Arshad H. Rizvi is a retired professor of sociology and criminal justice from Bowie State University, and Suellen H. Rizvi, a retired Elementary Library Media Specialist.

Eligibility Information:

- Students must be actively pursuing a graduate degree at the University of Maryland College Park.
- Students must demonstrate a financial barrier that may restrict them from attending or graduating from the university.
- Preference will be given to students who have graduated from a university in Pakistan or who are affiliated with UMD's Pakistani Student Association.
- Preference will be given to students pursuing degrees in the fields of sociology, criminology, IT, engineering and related.

Application Requirements

1. A student-written proposal (3-page maximum, double spaced, one-inch margins). The proposal should
 - a. provide a summary of your academic studies;
 - b. include a brief outline of your plans for after graduation;
 - c. demonstrate how a financial barrier may affect your ability to maintain enrollment or stop you from completing your degree.
2. The student's CV (2-page maximum)
3. Letter of support from the student's academic advisor describing the accomplishments and eligibility of the student. 2-page limit *(Advisor to submit separately)*
4. Recommendation Surveys from the program that collect information about programmatic standards and norms. *(Program to submit separately)*

Application Instructions

To apply for the Rizvi Fellowship, students must submit their student-written statement and CV on [Scholarship Universe \(SU\)](#). SU will begin accepting applications for the Rizvi Fellowship in February 2026.

Please note, upon logging on to Scholarship Universe, students will be directed to the SU student dashboard. Once on the student dashboard, click on “Scholarships” on the left sidebar to view matched opportunities. (Answering additional questions is optional.) To apply, find the award in the matched opportunities list and click the “Apply” button, then click the box to verify eligibility.

Application Deadline: Wednesday, March 4, 2026

Contact Information

Please direct questions to Robyn Kotzker, Program Director for the Office of Funding Opportunities, at 301-405-0281 or rkotzker@umd.edu.