



Spring 21 Candidacy Tuition Fellowships for PhD Candidates
Affected by the 2020 Coronavirus Pandemic

Some Ph.D. students were unable to make progress in their dissertation research in 2020 because critical facilities—labs, libraries, archives, field sites—were closed or research involving human subjects was suspended and they were unable to switch to another task that could be done remotely; or because they were seriously ill or were caring for someone who was seriously ill. As a result, their graduation is likely to be delayed by at least one semester. This delay may result in a lack of funding, if their advisor or department is unable to provide an extension of funding.

The Graduate School will offer a limited number of fellowships for candidacy tuition and mandatory fees in Spring 2021 to students whose dissertation research was seriously interrupted by the pandemic and who have no funding that would provide for tuition remission. Costs will be shared equally between the unit, the Graduate School, and the campus—one-third each.

To nominate a student for this award, the faculty advisor and their student should prepare a Letter of Justification: a brief statement that describes how the student’s dissertation research was affected by the pandemic and the reasons the student will have no funding for tuition. The Letter of Justification should be signed by both the student and the advisor, and then submitted to the program’s Director of Graduate Studies (DGS) for approval. The DGS would make the official nomination the Graduate School.

NOMINATION DEADLINE: The Graduate School will accept nominations and make decisions on a rolling basis, but we encourage programs to submit nominations by Friday February 6, 2021.

Eligibility: Ph.D. Candidates are eligible for nomination. This award is for students who were unable to make progress in their dissertation research because of consequences of the pandemic and could not to shift to other tasks that could be done remotely, and who do not have other funding (a graduate assistantship or fellowship) that provides tuition benefits.

Fellowship Benefits: Candidacy Tuition (899 only) and a credit for mandatory fees for Spring 2021.

Table with 2 columns: Current Candidacy Tuition Rates and Mandatory Fees (student benefit) and 1/3 cost-share, per student per semester (program’s share of cost). Rows include In-state and Out-of-state calculations.

Nomination Instructions: To nominate a student for this award, we ask the faculty advisor and their student to 1) complete the Candidacy Tuition Nomination Coversheet and 2) prepare a brief Letter of Justification (1 page) that describes how the student’s research was affected by the pandemic and why the student will have no funding in Spring 2021.

Please submit the Nomination Coversheet and Letter of Justification to your Director of Graduate Studies (DGS) for approval. The DGS will submit the nomination to the Graduate School.

Please direct questions to the Office of Funding Opportunities Program Director Robyn Kotzker (rkotzker@umd.edu / 301-405-0281).



Candidacy Tuition Nomination Coversheet
Spring 2021 PhD Candidacy Tuition Fellowship

Student Name: _____

Program/Department (4 letter code): _____

Student Directory ID (UMD Email Address): _____

Advisor: _____

1. On what date did this student advance to candidacy? _____

2. This request for the Candidacy Tuition Fellowship is for ____ Spring 2021, only

3. Before the pandemic, when was this student expecting to graduate? _____

4. When does this student expect to graduate now? _____

5. What was this student's source of support in the past? (e.g., TA, RA, fellowship, self, other [specify])

AY 18-19 (Fall 2018 / Spring 2019) _____

AY 19-20 (Fall 2019 / Spring 2020) _____

AY 20-21 (Fall 2020) _____

I understand that by submitting this nomination, the department agrees to share the 1/3 of the cost of this fellowship.

Director of Graduate Studies Approval: _____ Date _____

Advisors and Students: Please submit this form along with the co-signed Letter of Justification to your Director of Graduate Studies.

Director of Graduate Studies: Please assemble this form and the Letter of Justification as a single PDF file and submit the nomination to the Graduate School Awards Portal at apps.gradschool.umd.edu/GSAwardsSystem/