



UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND FLAGSHIP FELLOWSHIP (AY 2019-20)

Flagship Fellowships are multi-year enhancement awards to be added to fellowship/assistantship offers made by graduate programs. The goal is to award ten Flagship Fellowships per year, reaching a steady state of approximately forty to fifty Flagship Fellows. The Flagship Fellowship program helps UMD graduate programs compete successfully for superlative students, advances campus diversity objectives, and contributes to improving degree completion and time-to-degree rates. Since 2007, of the competition, more than 130 outstanding students have been recruited to the University of Maryland under this program.

UMD departments must nominate eligible students for the Flagship Fellowship Program.

NOMINATION DEADLINE: Noon, Wednesday, January 23, 2019

Stipends

The AY 19-20 Flagship Fellowship enhancement award may total \$50,000 per student over the duration of the award. At the discretion of the individual program, the award may be spread over four years at \$12,500 per year or for five years at \$10,000 per year.

Flagship Fellowships are enhancement awards added to base fellowship/assistantship packages provided by programs to Flagship Fellows. These base packages must extend at least for the duration of the Flagship Fellowship, and must meet or exceed guidelines for minimum stipends for fellowships and/or assistantships set annually by the Graduate School; it is expected that these base packages will be at least comparable to those normally offered by the program. **Programs must commit to providing these base packages at the time of nomination for a Flagship Fellowship**, and must notify the Graduate School with any subsequent changes in the proposed support package.

Flagship Fellowships are awarded to programs for specific students and are not transferable to other students. Should the awarded candidate decline the Fellowship, or should a student holding a Flagship Fellowship graduate from or leave his/her program with enhancement funding still outstanding, the Graduate School will return unused funds to the Flagship Fellowship pool.

Eligibility

Candidates must be a student with exceptional qualifications and with clear promise for outstanding performance in doctoral study.

Candidates must be entering doctoral programs in Fall 2019.

Nomination Packages

All doctoral programs are eligible to nominate candidates. A department/program may nominate up to two (2) candidates for the Flagship Fellowship. Specializations and/or concentration areas within a degree program are not considered to be separate programs.

In making nominations, programs are urged to consider the University's commitment to diversity.

Nomination packages must include the following:

1. a **Flagship 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, addressing the student's exceptional qualifications and promise, including what distinguishes the student from other top applicants to the program and what contributions the student is likely to make to the program and the field;
3. a **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 Flagship Fellowship, and must meet or exceed guidelines for minimum stipends for fellowships and/or assistantships set annually by the Graduate School; it is expected that these base packages will be at least comparable to those normally offered by the program); and
4. the **nominee's complete application** to the program.

Programs must assemble the above materials in a single PDF file and submit to the Graduate School Awards System at <http://apps.gradschool.umd.edu/GSAwardsSystem/> by the nomination deadline.

Fellowship Selection Process

A committee with broad disciplinary representation, appointed by the Graduate School, will serve as the selection committee. Selection decisions will be based on excellence, understood as a convergence of the nominee's grades and scores, statement of purpose, prior research or other original scholarship, letters of recommendation, and the program's letter of support.

Award decisions are expected in mid-February.

It is expected that the cohort of awardees will reflect the University's commitment to diversity, including disciplinary diversity.

Recruitment Funds

It is expected that the program will actively recruit a successful nominee, including inviting the nominee to campus. Each award of a Fellowship to a program, accordingly, will carry up to \$1,000 for reimbursement of expenses associated with recruitment of a nominee. Reimbursement requests are to be sent to Patricia Woodwell, Director of Administrative Services in the Graduate School at paw@umd.edu.

Status of Recruitment

The program awarded a Flagship Fellowship is expected to report on the status of its recruitment of the candidate 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.

Progress Reports

Programs will submit a brief annual report to the Graduate School on the progress of their Flagship Fellow(s). Flagship Fellows also will submit a brief annual progress report. The program and the Graduate School will confer regarding any Fellow who experiences significant academic difficulty during the year and will establish benchmarks for monitoring the student's progress. Continuation of the Flagship Fellowship will be contingent upon the student's resumption of timely and satisfactory progress.

Because the Flagship Fellowships are intended for exceptional students, continuation of the Fellowship from year to year is predicated on the student's making timely and satisfactory progress to degree.

Contact

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