



KULKARNI ENDOWED SUMMER RESEARCH FELLOWSHIPS (FOR SUMMER 2021)

Dr. Ashok Kulkarni, a distinguished alumnus of the India Institute of Technology and the University of Maryland Graduate School, generously endowed the Kulkarni Fellowships. They are intended specifically to help graduates of IIT enrolled in post-graduate studies at the University of Maryland to achieve their academic goals. Together with funding from the Graduate School and campus graduate programs, the Kulkarni endowment provides research support to four University of Maryland doctoral students.

Alumnus Ashok Kulkarni (PhD, '76, computer science), and his wife Ranjana, have a long history of educational philanthropy. The private family foundation they founded, the Kulkarni Foundation, has helped build two schools for underserved youth in rural India and supported vocational training for physically challenged children, as well as a scholarship program at Ashok Kulkarni's undergraduate alma mater, the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT).

The Kulkarni Fellowships are a cost-share program that provides research support for doctoral students at "mid-career" and enables recipients to devote a summer of focused work to prepare for or complete a key program benchmark. The Fellowships carry a stipend of \$5,000 with specific cost-share requirements which are detailed below.

Up to four Kulkarni Summer Research Fellowships are awarded each year.

Eligibility Requirements

Currently enrolled University of Maryland doctoral students who are graduates of India Institute of Technology may be nominated for this fellowship. Eligible students will have excellent qualifications, will be making demonstrable progress through their program, and will be able to show that a summer of focused work will enable them **to prepare for or complete a key benchmark** in their program's requirements. *The Kulkarni Summer Research Fellowships are not intended for dissertation completion or for student recruitment, since other fellowship programs exist for those purposes.*

Given the goals of the Kulkarni Summer Research Fellowship program, teaching assistants will not be eligible to teach during the summer of the award, and research assistants must be relieved of lab duties that do not directly advance their own research.

Programs may nominate up to two graduate students for Kulkarni Summer Research Fellowship.

NOMINATION DEADLINE: Noon, Wednesday, March 3, 2021.

Students, please consult with your program for internal deadlines.

Fellowship Stipend and Cost-Sharing

The Kulkarni Summer Research Program is a partnership between the Kulkarni Endowment and campus programs. The Fellowship stipend of \$5,000 is shared on a \$2,500 / \$2,500 basis by the endowed fund and the program making the nomination.

****A nomination from a program will signify commitment to the cost-sharing agreement.**

The Kulkarni Summer Research Fellowships carry no tuition remission.

Fellowships are awarded to specific students and are not transferable to other students. Should the awarded candidate decline the award, the Kulkarni Endowment will return its portion of unused funding to the fellowship pool and the graduate program will retain its portion of unused funding.

Eligibility

The Kulkarni Summer Fellowship Programs support students who are at “mid-career,” that is, in the period approximately before, during, or after achievement of candidacy.

Students may receive the Kulkarni Summer Research Fellowship only one time. Fellowships may not be deferred.

The Kulkarni Summer Research Fellowship is designed to fully support students over the summer.

- Teaching assistants and administrative assistants will not be eligible to teach or work during the summer of the award.
- Research assistants who must be in the lab to do their project must be relieved of lab duties that are not related to their research.
- The Summer Fellowship funding does not supplement a student’s graduate assistantship stipend or internship stipend. The Summer Fellowship funding replaces the student’s summer stipend or salary.

Fellowship Selection

The Graduate School’s Fellowship Committee, representing academic disciplines from across the campus, will evaluate the nominations. Selection decisions will be reached on the basis of the student’s outstanding qualifications, the significance of the student’s scholarship or research, the quality and feasibility of the proposed plan, and the student’s timely progress through the program.

Reporting

At the end of the academic year, the student will submit to the Graduate School a brief but specific report (no more than one page in length)

Nomination Packages

Nomination packages from programs must include:

1. The Kulkarni Summer Research Fellowship Nomination Cover Sheet
(found at gradschool.umd.edu/funding/student-fellowships-awards/kulkarni-foundation-summer-research-fellowship)
2. A specific proposal, prepared by the nominated student and no more than two pages, stating: a) the nature of the work to be accomplished during the summer; b) a plan for its execution; and c) the specific benchmark(s) that this award will enable the student to meet; and d) a clear indication of how the summer project fits within the program's timetable for completing graduation requirements; and
3. A **letter of recommendation** from the student's advisor or the major professor with whom the student is working. This letter should address the student's outstanding qualifications, the significance of the student's scholarship or research, and the student's timely progress through the program
4. A brief **letter of nomination** from the program's Director of Graduate Studies. This letter should confirm the student is in good standing and explain why he/she is being nominated for the fellowship
5. The student's *curriculum vitae* (no more than two pages).

Programs must assemble the above materials in a single PDF file and submit to the Graduate School Awards Portal at apps.gradschool.umd.edu/GSAwardsSystem/.

Contact

Please direct questions to Program Director Robyn Kotzker (rkotzker@umd.edu, 301.405.0281)