



Ronald E. McNair Graduate Fellowship (AY 2021-2022)

Ronald E. McNair Graduate Fellowships support entering graduate students who are alumni or alumnae of a McNair Post-Baccalaureate Achievement Program. This Fellowship Program is a partnership between the Graduate School and UMD Departments, and it provides support for the McNair Fellow and enhances their student experience while working toward their doctoral degree.

The Ronald E. McNair Graduate Fellowship provides support to awarded students throughout the entirety of their doctoral career. The Fellowship enhances the program's Graduate Assistantship support package and may total up to \$40,000 per student in support over the duration of the award.

The Graduate School of the University of Maryland will award up to ten McNair Graduate Fellowships for students enrolling at the University in the Fall of 2021. Since the inauguration of the Ronald E. McNair Graduate Fellowship program, 61 exceptional students have been recruited to UMD.

UMD Departments must nominate eligible students for the McNair Graduate Fellowship program. At the time of nomination, graduate programs must commit to providing the prospective McNair Fellow with half-time assistantship support during years 1 and 2, and full-time assistantship support during years 3 and 4.

NOMINATION DEADLINE: Noon, Friday, January 29, 2021, PREFERRED.

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

Fellowship Stipends and Benefits

The McNair Graduate Fellowship enhances the program's four-year support package with \$40,000 in support that includes the following:

- \$10,000 supplemental stipend in year 1 from the Graduate School (program provides ½ time assistantship)
- \$10,000 supplemental stipend in year 2 from the Graduate School (program provides ½ time assistantship)
- \$5,000 McNair Summer Research Fellowship after advancing to candidacy in year 3, 4, or 5
- \$15,000 McNair Semester Dissertation Fellowship in year 4 or 5

The McNair Graduate Fellowship supplemental support outlined above, combined with the program's assistantship support package, provide the McNair Fellow with full support for at least 4 or 4 ½ years. Please note, McNair Fellows must hold no more than a ½ time assistantship in years 1 and 2.

McNair Fellows are eligible to receive up to 10 credits of tuition remission each semester. (For years 1 and 2, five credits will be paid by the half-time assistantship and five credits will be paid by the McNair Graduate Fellowship.)

After year 2 and after advancing to candidacy, additional McNair Fellowship support is available for Fellows who remain in good academic standing and who provide annual reports as specified in the "Progress Reports" section detailed in these Guidelines. The \$5,000 Summer Fellowship may be taken in year 3, 4, or 5, to support the McNair Fellow for the duration of one summer. The \$15,000 McNair Semester Dissertation Fellowship may be taken in year 4 or 5 to support the McNair Fellow in writing their dissertation. While on the semester dissertation fellowship, the student will be released from assistantship duties in order to fully focus on writing.

Eligibility

Nominees must be an alumnus or alumna of the McNair Post-Baccalaureate Achievement Program either at University of Maryland or elsewhere. University of Maryland Departments/Programs must prepare the nomination package for eligible students.

Candidates must be entering doctoral programs at UMD in Fall 2021.

All doctoral programs are eligible to nominate candidates.

Society of McNair Fellows

Students who accept the McNair Fellowship will become members of the Graduate School's [Society of McNair Fellows](#). Associate Director Christopher Perez of the Graduate School's Office of Graduate Diversity and Inclusion ([OGDI](#)) offers programming specifically designed to offer guidance and support to the Society of McNair Fellows on a regular basis. Through OGDI programming, 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.

All members of the Society of McNair Fellows are expected to participate in OGDI workshops and events as much as possible. For more information about OGDI or the Society of McNair Fellows, please contact Christopher Perez at cperez6@umd.edu.

Nomination Packages

UMD Departments are asked to prepare the nomination packages. Please prepare the nomination in a single PDF file and include the following:

- 1) a McNair Graduate Fellowship nomination cover sheet, available [here](#).
- 2) a letter of nomination from the program's Chair or DGS addressing the student's qualifications and promise, including what contributions the student is likely to make to the program and the field;
- 3) a description of the four-year assistantship package being offered by the program to the student. Assistantship support in years 1 and 2 must be half-time (10 hours). Support in years 3 and 4 must be full-time (20 hours).
- 4) the student's complete application to the program.

Submitting the Nomination

The UMD nominating department must prepare the nomination in a single PDF file and submit it to the Graduate School Awards System at gradschool.umd.edu/GSAwardsSystem.

Selection

Selection decisions are based on excellence, understood as a convergence of the nominee's grades and scores, 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 nominating department show their commitment to the McNair Fellowship program to the success of their candidate.

Recruitment Funds

It is expected that the program will actively recruit a successful nominee, including inviting the nominee to campus. Each award of a McNair 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 the Director of Finance and Administration in the Graduate School, Patricia Woodwell at paw@umd.edu.

Status of Recruitment of the McNair Fellow

The program awarded a McNair Graduate 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 Graduate 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.

Progress Reports

McNair Graduate Fellows are asked to submit an annual progress 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.