



INTERNATIONAL GRADUATE RESEARCH FELLOWSHIPS (IGRF)

The Graduate School is now accepting applications for International Graduate Research Fellowships. These fellowships are to provide graduate students a meaningful research experience in an international context, broadening the student's knowledge and perspective. The fellowships take advantage of ongoing collaborations between UMD faculty and their international colleagues, and, through graduate student exchange, enhance those collaborations.

The fellowships facilitate and support research opportunities for doctoral students and, in exceptional cases, master's students, for a period of one to three months in another country. This period can be at any time during the year. The fellowships take the form of financial support for travel and living expenses and do not provide compensation for research work. There are no provisions for a tuition award or health insurance. Continuous enrollment at the home institution will be required. If there are any tuition costs, they will have to be paid for by the student. The Graduate School will award 15-20 students each year.

This fellowship supports UMD students who are interested in conducting collaborative research abroad with international colleagues.

This fellowship also supports international students who are interested in traveling to UMD to conduct collaborative research with UMD faculty.

Complete guidelines and the application cover sheet can be found at <http://go.umd.edu/igrf>.

UMD Students

Eligibility

A member of the Graduate Faculty can recommend a doctoral or masters student to participate in an international research project, generally, though not necessarily, one in which the faculty member is directly or indirectly involved. The graduate student's academic advisor, if different from the recommending faculty member, also must endorse the recommendation. **The student's participation in the international research project must benefit *both* the project and the student's individual research.**

Partnership and Funding for UMD students

The International Graduate Research Fellowships are a partnership between the Graduate School; the student's home institution (college, program, or PI); and the host institution (host program or host PI). Anticipated total cost is approximately \$6,000 per student, to be used for airfare and living expenses. The Graduate School will provide one-third of the cost (up to \$2,000), and the student's home institution (college, program, or PI) and the host institution (college, program or PI), each will provide a matching one-third. Host institutions may request to provide their one-third share in-kind, in the form of housing, food, and internal travel.

International Students

Eligibility

The IGRF initiative is intended to facilitate and support opportunities for graduate students from countries other than the United States to participate in international research projects housed at UMD. ***These cannot be international students already enrolled at UMD.*** A member of the UMD Graduate Faculty can recommend an international doctoral or masters student to participate in a research project at UMD. Generally, though not necessarily, these projects are ones in which the faculty member is directly or indirectly involved. The graduate student's academic advisor at the student's home institution must also endorse the recommendation. **The student's participation in the international research project must benefit *both* the project and the student's individual research.**

Partnership and Funding for International Students

The International Graduate Research Fellowships for international students are a partnership between the Graduate School and the student's home institution. Anticipated total cost is approximately \$7,000 per student, to be used for airfare and living expenses. The Graduate School will provide one-third of the cost (up to \$2,333), and the student's home institution (college, program, or PI) provide the remaining two thirds support (up to \$4,666).

Research Visa Requirement

International students must be able to obtain a Short Term Research J1 Visa in order to participate in this research opportunity. To obtain the visa, financial documentation, such as a personal bank statement, may be required.

HOW TO APPLY (UMD Students and International Students)

The collaborative research will vary across disciplines and can involve work in a research lab or work in the field. The student and the student's advisor will need to prepare an application package that includes the materials listed below:

1. Application Cover Sheet (located at <http://go.umd.edu/igrf>)
2. A letter of recommendation from a member of the UMD faculty who generally, though not necessarily, is directly or indirectly involved with the project. The letter should include, in lay terms, a description of the international research project. The letter should also describe the nature of the student's participation, how the project will benefit from the student's participation, and how the student's participation will enhance his or her own research and academic progress.
3. An endorsement letter from the graduate student's academic advisor, if different from the recommending faculty.
4. A statement from the student outlining how participation in this project will benefit both the project and the student's individual research.
5. A statement from the home institution indicating its commitment to fund the student according to the guidelines specified under "Partnership and Funding."
6. When the host institution is not UMD, a statement from the host institution indicating its commitment to fund the student according to the guidelines specified under "Partnership and Funding." The host institution's support may be monetary or in-kind.
7. The student's curriculum vitae (no more than two pages).

Please prepare these materials as a single PDF file and submit the application to the Graduate School by email to IGRF@umd.edu by the October 15th or March 15th deadline.

Deadlines and Review Process

Nominations will be reviewed twice yearly. The deadlines are **October 15th** and **March 15th**.

The Graduate School will make a prompt decision regarding its support and notify the faculty recommender of its decision. If the decision is positive, the faculty recommender will have four weeks from notification to confirm the commitment of matching support from the student's program and the host institution. The Commitment Agreement will be sent to the student with the award notification. There are two types of commitment agreements: one for UMD Students and one for Non-UMD Students.

Upon receipt of a fully signed commitment agreement, the Graduate School funds will be transferred to the UMD Department who is advising the student.

Reporting

Within 30 days of completing the International Research Fellowship, the graduate student will provide the sending and host institutions with a one-page report on his/her participation in the research project and on the results accomplished. Reports from UMD students will be co-signed by the UMD faculty recommender; reports from international, non-UMD students will be co-signed by the director of the UMD research project.

Contact: Please direct any questions to Valerie Woolston, Executive Director for International Initiatives (vwoolsto@umd.edu) or Robyn Kotzker, Assistant Director for Fellowships and Awards, (rkotzker@umd.edu, 301.405.0281)