Ronald E. McNair Graduate Fellowships at the University of Maryland  
(AY 2017-2018)

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 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 2017. Since the inauguration of the Ronald E. McNair Graduate Fellowship program, 31 exceptional students have been recruited to the University of Maryland.

GUIDELINES

Stipend Benefit

The AY 17-18 Ronald E. McNair Graduate Fellowship is an enhancement package for incoming McNair Scholars and 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.

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.

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
- $10,000 supplemental stipend in year 2
- $5,000 McNair Summer Research Fellowship after advancing to candidacy in year 3, 4, or 5
- $15,000 McNair Semester Dissertation Fellowship in year 5

The McNair Graduate Fellowship supplemental support outlined above, combined with the program’s assistantship support packages, provide the McNair Fellow with full support for at least 4 ½ years.

Additional Fellowship Information

McNair Fellows are eligible to receive up to 10 credits of tuition remission each semester.

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 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.

Candidates must be entering doctoral programs or masters programs that are part of or lead directly into doctoral programs. Students entering terminal master’s degree programs are not eligible.

Nomination Instructions

University of Maryland Departments/Programs must prepare the nomination package for eligible students.

Nominations are due in the Graduate School by noon, on Wednesday, February 8, 2017.

Nomination Packages

All doctoral programs are eligible to nominate candidates; a program may nominate no more than two candidates. Nomination packages must be prepared in a single PDF file and should include the following:

1) a McNair Graduate Fellowship nomination cover sheet (available at http://gradschool.umd.edu/funding/fellowships-awards/student-fellowships-awards/ronald-e-mcnair-graduate-fellowship

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) a verification letter from the McNair Post-Baccalaureate Achievement host program. (Please contact the institution where applicant was a McNair Scholar)

5) 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 www.gradschool.umd.edu/GSAwardsSystem.
Selection

Selection decisions will be 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, letters of recommendation, and the program’s letter of support. The Graduate School will appoint a campus selection committee with broad disciplinary representation.

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 Administrative Services in the Graduate School (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 nominated candidate decline the Fellowship, the Graduate School will return unused funds to the McNair Graduate Fellowship pool.

Progress Reports

McNair Graduate Fellows will submit an annual progress report which is to be co-signed by their academic advisor and sent to the Graduate School Office of Funding Opportunities at the end of each academic year.

Contact

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

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