



GRADUATE SCHOOL SUMMER RESEARCH FELLOWSHIP (FOR SUMMER 2025)

In partnership with University of Maryland doctoral programs, the Graduate School is pleased to offer the Summer Research Fellowship program. These summer fellowships support research activities that advance a doctoral student's progress toward degree and provide doctoral students the opportunity to concentrate fully on their own research and scholarship during the summer.

We invite programs to nominate University of Maryland doctoral students who are at "mid-career," that is, in the period approximately before, during, or after achievement of candidacy. All Ph.D. programs are eligible to nominate candidates based on the nomination allocation schedule found in Appendix A.

The Summer Research Fellowship program carry a stipend of \$5,000, with the specific cost-share requirements outlined below.

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 research will enable them **to prepare for or complete a key benchmark** in their program's requirements. *The specific goal of the fellowship is to help students to take a significant step toward the completion of their degree. The overall goals of the program are to reduce time-to-degree, increase degree completion, and enhance the quality of the graduate student experience.*

Up to 40 Summer Research Fellowships will be awarded for Summer 2025.

NOMINATION DEADLINE: Noon, Wednesday, March 5, 2025.

Fellowship Stipend and Cost-Sharing

The Summer Research Fellowships are designed to be a partnership between the Graduate School and campus doctoral programs. The Fellowship stipend of \$5,000 is shared on a \$2,500 / \$2,500 basis by the Graduate School and the program making a nomination.

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

The Summer Research Fellowships carry no tuition remission.

These summer fellowships are awarded to specific students and are not transferable to other students. Should the awarded student decline the award, the Graduate School will return its portion of unused funding to the fellowship pool and graduate programs will retain their portion of unused funding.

The Key Benchmark (Summer Research Fellowships)

Given disciplinary and programmatic differences across campus, programs and their nominees will have broad latitude in defining the key benchmarks that students will prepare for or complete. Some humanities programs, for example, have extensive reading lists that students must master for candidacy exams; some science programs may require students at a particular stage to acquire and demonstrate new laboratory methods or other techniques; programs in many disciplines across campus require dissertation prospectuses and, often, formal prospectus defenses. These benchmarks, among others, would be appropriate.

Eligibility

The Summer Fellowship Programs support students who are at “mid-career,” that is, in the period approximately before, during, or after achievement of candidacy. Normally, students applying for the Summer Research Fellowship are not at the dissertation writing stage and will have plans to graduate after August 2026. Students who are nearing graduation with plans to graduate by August 2026 should consider the Semester Dissertation Fellowship.

A student may not be nominated concurrently for the Summer Research Fellowship and the Summer Internship Fellowship in the same award year.

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

The Summer Research Fellowships are 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. The Summer Fellowship funding replaces the student’s summer stipend or salary.

Fellowship Selection Process

The Graduate School’s Fellowship Selection Committee, representing academic disciplines from across the campus, will evaluate the nominations.

For the Summer Research Fellowship, 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.

It is expected that the cohort of awardees will reflect the University’s commitment to diversity.

Nomination Packages

All Ph.D. programs are eligible to nominate candidates for the Summer Research Fellowship. Based on the 3-year average of degrees conferred, a nomination allocation schedule has been prepared and can be found in Appendix A. Please note, 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.

Summer Research Fellowship Nomination packages

1. The Summer Fellowship Nomination Cover Sheet ([found here](#)).
2. A specific proposal, authored by the nominated student and no more than two pages, stating:
 - a) the nature of the research to be accomplished during the summer;
 - b) a plan for its execution;
 - 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

** Students are asked to write for an educated lay audience
3. The student's curriculum vitae (no more than two pages)
4. A **letter from the student's advisor** or the major professor that addresses the student's outstanding qualifications, the significance of the student's scholarship or research, and the student's timely progress through the program
5. A **questionnaire completed by the Director of Graduate Studies** ([found here](#)). We ask the Director of Graduate Studies to complete this questionnaire in order to better inform the committee about disciplinary and programmatic differences. (*If the student's advisor is also the Director of Graduate Studies, the Program/Department Chair should complete the questionnaire*).

Programs must gather the above materials and submit to the Graduate School Awards System at <https://terpengage.umd.edu/gsawards/s/>.

Students should be made aware of any internal departmental deadlines.

Reporting

At the end of the summer, the Summer Research Fellows will be asked to submit a one-page overview of the progress made on their summer project.

Contact

Please direct questions to Robyn Kotzker in the Office of Funding Opportunities (rkotzker@umd.edu / 5-0281).

Summer Research Fellowships, continued

APPENDIX A

Nomination Allocation Schedule
Based on a 3-year Average of PhD Degrees Conferred
AY 2025-26 Summer Research Fellowship Competition

PhD programs averaging 10+ degrees	Nomination Allocation
AMSC - Applied Mathematics, Statistics, Scientific Comp	3
BIOE - ENGR: PhD Only-Bioengineering	3
BISI - Biological Sciences	3
BPHD - Business and Management	3
CHEM - Chemistry	3
CMSC - Computer Science	3
COMM - Communication	3
ECON - Economics	3
ENAE - ENGR: MS/PhD-Aerospace Engineering	3
ENCE - ENGR: MS/PhD-Civil Engineering	3
ENCH - ENGR: MS/PhD-Chemical Engineering	3
ENEE - ENGR: MS/PhD-Electrical Engineering	3
ENGL - English Language & Literature	3
ENMA - ENGR: MS/PhD-Materials Science and Engineering	3
ENME - ENGR: MS/PhD-Mechanical Engineering	3
GEOG - Geographical Sciences	3
MATH - Mathematics	3
MEES - Marine, Estuarine, & Environmental Sciences	3
PHYS - Physics	3
TLPL - Teaching and Learning, Policy and Leadership	3
PhD programs averaging 9 or fewer degrees	Nomination Allocation
ALL OTHER PROGRAMS	2