

Fellowship Enhancement for Outstanding Doctoral Candidates

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The purpose of this program is to enhance the University's competitiveness in attracting the best and brightest students in the nation and the world to doctoral-level study at the University of Virginia. The University's desire is to achieve excellence in all aspects of graduate education.

To improve the University's competitiveness, the Office of the Vice President for Research (VPR) will offer stipend supplements of up to \$10,000/year, for up to three years, to students receiving admission and offers of financial support from their respective departments. The supplement is intended as an add-on to a compensation package from the applicant's department that already includes a stipend, tuition and fees, and health insurance subsidy. In addition, a \$500 travel allowance is available for recipients to visit the University.

Criteria: Applicants must indicate interest in pursuing a doctoral degree within a Ph.D.–granting department at the University. VPRGS encourages departments to nominate outstanding students, with credentials comparable to those competing for the U.Va. President's Fellowship and the National Science Foundation's Graduate Research Fellowship Program (NSF-GRFP). General guidelines are GPA \geq 3.8 from a highly-regarded undergraduate program and combined GRE verbal and quantitative scores \geq 1400. However, these are not absolute minimum and the entirety of the application will be considered, including departmental financial support.

Application Materials: Standard U.Va. application – **in its entirety** (including undergraduate transcript, GRE scores, statement of purpose, and letters of recommendation), a nomination cover letter from a departmental representative, and a copy of a letter to the candidate specifying the departmental financial support package. Electronic submission to gradstudies@virginia.edu is preferred. Paper copies may be delivered to Thornton Hall A123 or sent by messenger mail to P.O. Box 400882. Departments may nominate up to two admitted applicants per year.

Deadlines: Application materials are due to VPR by February 5, 2009. We anticipate announcing fellows by February 13, 2009.

Questions:

1. *May the funds be used to support multiple students?* NO, the funds are intended for one student – to target excellence – not to supplement the stipends of several students. Departments should inquire with their respective schools about general funding levels for their program.

2. *Are international students eligible?* YES, because we are interested in raising the quality of the graduate student body regardless of citizenship or national origin.
3. *Who funds the supplement for individual students after three years?* Funding from VPR is limited to three years. Beyond that time, supplements will be funded at the discretion of the school or department.
4. *Are currently enrolled students eligible?* NO, because this program is targeted toward recruiting additional high quality students to the University.
5. *Are students with other University scholarships or fellowships (e.g., President's Fellowships, Jefferson Scholars Graduate Fellow) eligible for the supplement?* YES.
6. *May the \$10,000 be used in lieu of a GTA or GRA appointment?* NO, the supplement is intended to augment a typical stipend (~\$15-25K) that is provided by the department.
7. *May the supplement be used toward tuition and fees?* NO, the supplements are intended for outstanding students, and it is expected that tuition and fees will be part of the departmental offer of financial aid support. .

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Nomination Packet Checklist

- Standard U.Va. application (**in its entirety**), including
 - Transcript
 - GRE scores
 - Statement of Purpose
 - Letters of recommendation

- Nomination cover letter from departmental representative, including level of request - \$3,000, \$5,000, or \$10,000 per year.

- Copy of departmental letter to candidate detailing offer of financial support

Electronic submission of application materials is encouraged. Please e-mail to gradstudies@virginia.edu. Paper materials may be delivered to Thornton Hall A123 or sent by messenger mail to P.O. Box 400882.

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Applications are due by Thursday, February 5, 2009.