CELEBRATING EXCELLENCE

GRADUATE FELLOWS

THE GRADUATE COLLEGE
UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS AT URBANA-CHAMPAIGN
Supporting and Celebrating Graduate Student Success

As a premier land grant institution with global impact, graduate students are at the heart of what we do. Recruiting, retaining, and graduating the very best and brightest graduate students is a top priority and why the Graduate College provides support to students and academic programs in two ways.

The first is through Graduate College fellowships and travel funding. These awards help academic programs create competitive funding packages to attract, enroll, and retain top students. They also aid research and degree completion by offering financial support at critical moments during a student’s course of study.

The second way we help graduate students fund their education is through our external fellowship resources, including our Fellowship Finder database, proposal writing workshops, online resources, and one-on-one proposal review. We work diligently to help graduate students secure funding from external funding sources.

Illinois graduate students are highly competitive. We are proud to have over 140 graduate students hold Graduate Research Fellowships from the National Science Foundation, one of the largest fellowship programs in the nation. We are equally proud of the many students who have won awards from myriad other funding agencies, such as Google, Fulbright, and the Smithsonian Institution, to name only a few.

You will see several award-winning graduate students and alumni on these pages. The Graduate College enjoys working with departments to help secure financial assistance for our students, and we look forward to even greater success in this increasingly important endeavor.

Sincerely,

Wojtek J. Chodzko-Zajko
Dean, Graduate College
GRADUATE COLLEGE AWARDS

$3.3M
Dispersed in fellowships to graduate students through campuswide competitions (FY 16)

486
Nominations received for AY 16-17 fellowships

101
Fellowships and grants awarded (AY 16-17)

EXTERNAL FELLOWSHIPS

$2.8M+
Dollar value generated from winning proposals (FY 16)

500+
External fellowships won over the past five years

1,000+
Students trained annually through our grant-writing workshops

1,100+
Fellowships listed in our Fellowship Finder database
The Illinois Distinguished Fellowship allowed me to explore multiple interests without having to worry about funding. While I was working on HIV diagnostic technologies and taking medical school courses (as an MD/PhD student), I also had the flexibility to learn about global public health and to engage with people in other disciplines. That’s a part of my graduate education that is priceless.
Illinois Distinguished Fellowships

The Graduate College’s long-standing Illinois Distinguished Fellowship program improves the ability of departments to recruit doctoral applicants of the highest caliber by providing funds to match or exceed multi-year financial aid packages offered by other institutions. Recipients can be of any nationality.

11 awards given across 10 departments

AWARD AMOUNT
This 3-year doctoral fellowship provides $25,000 per year.

WWW.GRAD.ILLINOIS.EDU/FELLOWSHIP/COMPETITIONS
The Graduate College Fellowship is the reason that I chose the University of Illinois for graduate school. Funding is critical to deciding where to go to school, and this fellowship guaranteed me multi-year support. I was able to finish my coursework without teaching and focus on developing my dissertation topic at the start of my graduate career.
Graduate College Fellowships

National data shows a widening gap between national demographics and degree attainment for students from underrepresented racial and ethnic minorities. Graduate College Fellowships provide one-, two-, and three-year awards to recruit and retain underrepresented students.

28 awards given across 20 departments

AWARD AMOUNTS
The 1-year master’s fellowship provides $12,000.
The 1- and 2-year doctoral fellowships provide $20,000 per year.
The 3-year doctoral fellowships provide $25,000 per year.

WWW.GRAD.ILLINOIS.EDU/FELLOWSHIP/COMPETITIONS
Communication studies, by its nature, involves collecting data and working closely with people. Funding and discretionary time are of paramount importance in that regard. The Dissertation Completion Fellowship freed me from day-to-day teaching and other work obligations, so I can devote myself entirely to fieldwork and writing.
Dissertation Completion Fellowships

Graduate College Dissertation Completion Fellowships can have a profound impact on students in the final stage of their graduate studies. By providing one year of funding, the award frees fellows from assistantships and other such obligations, allowing them to devote themselves full-time to the completion of the dissertation.

29 awards given across 28 departments

AWARD AMOUNT
This 1-year fellowship provides $20,000.
Ishva Minefee
(Business Administration)
Dissertation Travel Grant

"The Dissertation Travel Grant allowed me to visit archives at Temple University to obtain images for a project on firms’ use of visual rhetoric in response to social movement activism. I am thankful for the grant as it helps lay the foundation for my research agenda as a tenure-track professor."
Dissertation Travel and Master’s Project Travel Grants

It is paramount that graduate students have the opportunity to conduct their research in the most appropriate venues. Students may need access to archaeological sites, original manuscripts, or scientific equipment; or they may need to be onsite to research a rare species, conduct field work, install their artwork, or perform.

30 awards given across 26 departments

AWARD AMOUNTS
Dissertation Travel Grants provide up to $5,000. Master’s Project Travel Grants provide up to $500.

WWW.GRAD.ILLINOIS.EDU/FELLOWSHIP/COMPETITIONS
Lauren Hagler
(Chemistry)
Illinois Sloan Scholar

"The Sloan UCEM at Illinois helped me get through my first year of graduate school by providing great mentors and making more research opportunities possible. Now, I am acting as a mentor to the next class and helping build a community."
Sloan UCEM @ Illinois

The Sloan University Center of Exemplary Mentoring (UCEM) at Illinois aims to broaden participation in advanced engineering, physical, and mathematical science careers, thereby strengthening the talent pool in these fields while increasing equitable opportunities in the US. The center supports underrepresented racial/ethnic minority students, defined by Sloan as US citizens who are African American, Latina/Latino, and American Indian/Alaskan Native.

$1M
Grant from the Alfred P. Sloan Foundation

50+
Sloan UCEM scholars supported

SCHOLARSHIP AMOUNT
Sloan scholars receive $40,000 ($10,000 of which must be used for professional development). Illinois Sloan Scholars receive professional development funding of $10,000 in their first year.
Your advisor will help you with the theoretical aspects of your proposal, whereas the Graduate College will help you frame your proposal appropriately for a particular grant.
External Fellowships

The Graduate College provides services and resources to help students pursue external funding. These include, Fellowship Finder, our searchable database with more than 1,000 national awards as well as workshops on the art of proposal writing, one-on-one proposal review, and online resources.

Fellowship Finder

[www.go.grad.illinois.edu/Find-Fellowships](http://www.go.grad.illinois.edu/Find-Fellowships)

Grant writing workshops

[www.go.grad.illinois.edu/Proposal-Workshops](http://www.go.grad.illinois.edu/Proposal-Workshops)

One-on-one proposal advising

[www.go.grad.illinois.edu/Fellowship-Advising](http://www.go.grad.illinois.edu/Fellowship-Advising)

Sample proposals and online resources

[www.go.grad.illinois.edu/Fellowship-Resources](http://www.go.grad.illinois.edu/Fellowship-Resources)
When it comes to prestigious grants and fellowships, Illinois graduate students are making their mark.

Our students are winning awards from the American Association of University Women, American Heart Association, Ford Foundation, Fulbright, Google, NASA, National Institutes of Health, National Science Foundation, Smithsonian Institution, Social Science Research Council, and many others.
I'm beyond thrilled to receive a Google PhD Fellowship. This fellowship not only helps me to continue my research during the final years of my PhD without being concerned about funding but it has also encouraged me to continue my research with more motivation, believing that hard work always pays off. Thanks, Google!
Mark Frank
(East Asian Languages and Cultures)
Fulbright Fellow

“*My Fulbright fellowship was much more than money: the program offered training and assistance during my research year that was unparalleled by any other fellowship program I’ve considered. The Fulbright name opens doors too, in the US and abroad. I will be a University of Illinois alumnus first, but I’ll also be a proud Fulbright alumnus for life.*

Robin Holland
(Veterinary Medical Scholars Program)
NIH Ruth L. Kirschstein National Research Service Award (NRSA)

“*Receiving the NRSA is beneficial on a number of levels. Of course, the funding itself is incredibly valuable, especially as it will apply during my remaining years in the veterinary program and provide me the financial support to participate in specialized off-campus rotations specifically related to my field of study. But the prestige associated with an individual NIH grant, and especially the NRSA, is an achievement that I will remember throughout my academic career.*
I brought my NSF essay to [the Graduate College] fully written, and I thought it was perfect. [The reviewer] sent me five pages of comments which helped me to revise my proposal and win the award.

I am beyond thrilled that the Smithsonian has given me this opportunity to pursue my passions. Being able to work with a system that I love, in one of the most diverse and beautiful environments in the world, is every student’s dream, and one that not everyone has the opportunity to pursue. I am so grateful that I am able to work with, and be trained by, some of the best tropical biologists at one of the greatest scientific institutions.

Bruno Azeredo
(Mechanical Science and Engineering, PhD ‘17)
NSF Graduate Research Fellow

Lynette Strickland
(Animal Biology)
Smithsonian Institution Predoctoral Fellow
See our **Fellowship Finder**:  
go.grad.illinois.edu/Find-Fellowships

**Additional Resources:**  
go.grad.illinois.edu/fellowship-external