Nominating Students for Graduate College Fellowships & Grants

Graduate College Annual Workshop
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Fellowship Board Executive Committee
GC Fellowships & Grants

1) Recruitment Fellowships
2) Travel Grants
3) Dissertation Completion Fellowships
Application Process

Departmental Nomination Only
- students do not apply directly –

Hence... the importance of the department’s Nomination Statement
Department’s Nomination Statement

2 Key Elements for Understanding the Importance of the Nomination Statement:

1. Evaluation Criteria
2. Review Process
1. Evaluation Criteria

Intellectual/Scholarly Merit

- Academic record
- Productivity
- Clarity, significance, and feasibility of research/study plans
- Letters of recommendation

Specific to select awards

- Recruitment Fellowships
  - Department’s level of interest in the student
- Travel Grants
  - Student’s need for travel
- Dissertation Completion
  - Likelihood of student’s depositing by end of award period
2. Review Process

- Departmental Nomination
- Fellowship Board Area Committee
- Fellowship Board Executive Committee
# Nomination Form

## Graduate College
Departmental Nomination Form

### Dissertation Travel Grant

#### Department Information

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<th>Date</th>
<th>Department</th>
<th>Program Code</th>
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<th>Contact Person</th>
<th>Contact’s Email</th>
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#### Student Information

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Last Name</th>
<th>First Name</th>
<th>Middle Initial</th>
<th>UIN</th>
<th>Date of Birth</th>
<th>Gender</th>
<th>Degree Sought</th>
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- Has the nominee completed all required coursework? **Yes** | **No**
- Has the nominee traveled within the UIN area? **Yes** | **No**

- What stage of research is the nominee proposing? **Pre-dissertation preliminary research** | **Dissertation research**
- If the nominee is proposing dissertation research, what stage is the date of the nominee’s preliminary exam? **

#### Advisor Information

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<th>Name</th>
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#### Nominator Information (must be either Head or OSB)

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<th>Name</th>
<th>Title</th>
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- If this nominee receives a Dissertation Travel Grant, the department hereby agrees to pay 12% of the cost of the project.

#### Ranking

The department ranks this nomination 1 - **Out of** - 5 submitted for this competition.

**Using this space below, please any OSB/Department’s comments for the ranking.**

### Nomination Statement

Using only the space below, please explain to the Fellowship Board why this nominee should be considered for a Travel Grant from the Graduate College. Keep in mind that the Fellowship Board is multi-disciplinary and consists of representatives from the sciences, humanities, engineering, fine arts, social sciences, and professional programs. Board members will look to your statement for guidance on what counts for intellectual merit and academic achievement with real-world impact, and they will take your assessment as a key factor in their attempt to compare your department’s nomination with other nominations from across campus.

**Title:**

- Use concrete, justified measures whenever possible to substantiate the nominee’s accomplishments and productivity.
- Clearly outline within the field of any journals or conferences that have featured the nominee’s work.
- Address any weaknesses in the nominee’s record here.

This form must be merged with the other nomination materials into a single pdf and uploaded by the department to the Graduate College’s online Box folder. If you have questions, contact the Fellowships Office at 517-353-6598 or GraduateCollege@umich.edu.
The department ranks this nomination __ out of __ submitted for this competition.

Using only the space below, please explain the department’s rationale for the ranking.
Slavic's Graduate Admissions Committee, several of whose members taught \( \text{Student A} \) when he was an undergraduate, concluded that he was an extraordinarily strong applicant, particularly in terms of his intellectual and academic promise. However, the Department ranked this nominee below \( \text{Student B} \) for the following reasons: his GRE scores are lower; \( \text{University 1} \), where he earned his MA (2013), is ranked lower than \( \text{University 2} \), from which \( \text{Student B} \) holds an Honors BA (2015); and finally, early on in his time as an undergraduate, \( \text{Student A} \) underperformed academically, though after switching to our Russian Language and Literature program, he did remarkably well and was its standout member.
We are ranking [Student] 2nd of 2 nominations because he has a slightly weaker publication record than our top-ranked nominee.
Using only the space below, please explain to the Fellowship Board why this nominee should be considered for a Travel Grant from the Graduate College. Keep in mind that the Fellowship Board is multidisciplinary and consists of representatives from the sciences, humanities, engineering, fine arts, social sciences, and professional programs. Board members will look to your statement for guidance on what counts for intellectual merit and academic achievement within your discipline, and they will use your assessment as a key resource in their attempt to compare your department’s nominee with other nominees from across campus.

Tips:
- Use concrete, quantified measures whenever possible to characterize the nominee’s accomplishments and productivity.
- Clarify the stature within the field of any journals or conferences that have featured the nominee’s work.
- Address any weaknesses in the nominee’s record head-on.
[Student]’s dissertation research represents the first ever study that examines the relationship between tropical cyclones (hurricanes and typhoons) and climate using a fully coupled ocean-atmosphere model. Geophysical fluid dynamics models that fully couple ocean dynamics and atmospheric dynamics have not been possible to implement on the scale of hurricanes before the advent of petascale computing. With Blue Waters, she has been able to perform these simulations and determine how hurricanes effectively distribute heat down into the ocean while drawing cold water from depth to the surface, an effect of upwelling in the ocean beneath the hurricane vortex. The heat exchange that occurs impacts both the atmosphere and ocean on climatic time scales.

Quantitative measures of [Student]’s success are 1) She has published two lead author papers in top journals in our field (Geophysical Research Letters and Journal of Geophysical Research-Oceans), and has two additional lead author papers in review that I fully expect to be published, also both in top journals in the field (Climatic Change and Journal of Advances in Modeling Earth Systems). 2) She won the 2016 Ogura Award for best graduate student paper published in the calendar year 2016. This competition considers all first author papers published by our students (and alums if the work was done while a student) in the calendar year. 3) She has been Co-PI on grants for Blue Waters computer allocations amounting to over one million node hours. 4) She has presented work at national and international conferences. 5) She won the Best Student Presentation Award at the 2015 Aegean Conference, as well as an NSF student travel award to attend that conference. 6) She has already served as a reviewer for two major scientific journals, which shows that her work is being noticed by editors who are choosing reviewers.

I see no weaknesses in [Student]. She works hard, is publication driven, tackles unsolved scientific issues that have practical relevance for society, gets work done in a timely manner, and has a fantastic future. She is highly deserving of the dissertation completion fellowship.
Examples in Your Packet

• **Illinois Distinguished**
  - Educational Psychology
  - Computer Science
  - History

• **Dissertation Completion**
  - Musicology
  - Atmospheric Sciences
  - Nutritional Sciences
Questions?