

### Tuition Support for External Fellowships Graduate Division Policy and Contributions, 2025-26

The Graduate Division devotes a significant amount of funding to the payment of tuition and fees for recipients of external fellowships. This provides for consistent treatment of awards offered to students across many academic disciplines, and by centralizing one potentially unpredictable expense, provides financial assistance to departments.

Included in this group are two types of awards:

- Category 1: Campus-wide external fellowships
- Category 2 (a/b): External research and writing fellowships for advanced doctoral students

While the Graduate Division does not guarantee tuition/fee support for any fellowship awards other than those listed above, it may, *depending on the availability of funding*, offer tuition/fee support for other awards (category 3 requests). **Importantly**, the Graduate Division does not provide fee coverage for research training grants<sup>1</sup> and expects that departments will use other funds (such as block grant allocations) to cover the balance of trainees' tuition and fees. Please see below for additional details.

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#### Category 1: Campus-wide external fellowships

Mostly multi-year and administered centrally by the Graduate Division, the fellowships in this defined and exhaustive list of programs<sup>2</sup> typically provide, in addition to a stipend, an allowance to be applied toward a fellow's tuition and fees. For these awards, the Graduate Division covers resident tuition and fees in excess of any tuition allowance provided, and also pays NRST *for first-year doctoral students only*. (NRST beyond the first year, for students who don't establish California residency, is the obligation of the student's department.)

- National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellowship
- Department of Defense National Defense Science and Engineering Graduate (NDSEG) Fellowship
- DAAD German Academic Exchange Service (includes NRST)
- Fannie and John Hertz Foundation Graduate Fellowship
- Foreign Language and Area Studies (FLAS) Fellowship
- Fulbright-Hays Doctoral Dissertation Research Abroad (Fulbright DDRA)
- Graduate Fellowships for STEM Diversity (Formerly "National Physical Science Consortium (NPSC)")
- HHMI Gilliam Fellowships for Advanced Study
- Paul and Daisy Soros Fellowship for New Americans
- UC Mexus/CONACYT

**Procedure:** For fellowships included in this list, the Graduate Division automatically pays the tuition/fee balance. Individual requests are not needed.

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<sup>1</sup> A research training grant is an agreement that provides funding intended to pay stipends to, and provide a coordinated training program for, students who are selected by the institution to be a part of the training program. Training grants are different from fellowships, which generally provide stipends for individuals who are selected by the agency. Training grants are awarded by federal and non-federal agencies.

<sup>2</sup> The Graduate Division strongly supports graduate students' pursuit of external fellowships and aims to encourage such pursuit by offering tuition support for fellowships that include both a generous stipend and a reasonable tuition allowance. This list is reviewed on a regular basis and is therefore subject to change.

## Category 2: External research and writing fellowships for advanced doctoral students<sup>3</sup>

### Category 2A: Dissertation writing/completion fellowships

For external fellowships specifically designed to cover a student's final year of doctoral study, the Graduate Division pays up to full resident tuition and fees (but not NRST or PDST when assessed) or the balance of resident tuition and fees if the external award includes a tuition allowance. This applies to fellowships intended to provide full support for the academic year (at least \$27,000 in stipend funding).

### Category 2B: External fellowships for off-campus dissertation research

For fellowships supporting off-campus research activities, the Graduate Division pays for the recipient's tuition and fees at the *in-absentia rate only* (but, again, not NSRT or PDST). Fellowships must provide sufficient support for an academic year of research (generally \$27,000, but the cost of living at one's research site is taken into consideration).

**Procedure:** The recipient's department must provide general information on the offer and a copy of the fellowship award letter, along with any associated terms documents, to the Fellowships Office via the following Google form, <https://forms.gle/UqBDK4VVVLrrB7Y19>.

Please include all supporting materials as one combined PDF file. Submissions will be reviewed to confirm eligibility. Requests should be submitted as soon as possible after the fellowship is offered (generally by June). Questions can be directed to [gradfell@berkeley.edu](mailto:gradfell@berkeley.edu).

## Category 3: Other fellowships

While the Graduate Division does not guarantee tuition/fee support for any fellowship awards other than those included in the previous sections, it may, *depending on the availability of funding*, offer tuition/fee support for other awards. This could include, for example, multi-year fellowships not included in the above list and research fellowships supporting on-campus research. As above, such awards must provide full support for the academic year (typically, at least \$27,000 in stipend funding). Applications for this additional funding are accepted from departments each summer. In general, **departments should anticipate sharing tuition costs for such requests.**

**Importantly**, the Graduate Division does not provide fee coverage for research training grants and expects that departments will use other funds (such as block grant allocations) to cover the balance of trainees' tuition and fees.

**Procedure:** Requests should be submitted by the recipient's department via the following Google form, <https://forms.gle/UqBDK4VVVLrrB7Y19>.

Please include the associated offer letter and fellowship terms, as well as a brief memo explaining why the department is unable to provide the needed tuition/fee payment in one PDF document. The deadline for the first review of proposals for 2025-26 requests is **June 20, 2025**.

These new policies and procedures are in effect for external fellowships awarded for 2018-19 and subsequent years. Any questions regarding the rules and processes outlined here can be directed to [gradfell@berkeley.edu](mailto:gradfell@berkeley.edu)

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<sup>3</sup> "External" fellowships are those awarded and funded by a non-campus organization, agency, or foundation and not open only to Berkeley students. Students must apply to the awarding organization and, if selected by that organization, funds are generally disbursed directly to the fellow.