SUNY Chancellor’s Graduate Research Scholarship Announcement

September 23, 2019

Program Highlights

- The SUNY Chancellor’s Graduate Research Scholarship (SUNY CGRS) is a one-time $5,000 award to SUNY students who win awards in a Federal predoctoral research-based fellowship competition.
- Students do not need to apply for the CGRS; the scholarship will be awarded based on public announcements made by the Federal agency and enrollment verification.
- Students recognized with NSF GRFP's Honorable Mention are also eligible.
- The CGRS funds may be used for research expenses, travel, professional development, and stipend augmentation and are provided in addition to any stipend or other support offered by the Federal agency or the home campus.
- CGRS will be awarded after eligible students complete one subsequent year of satisfactory progress in a qualifying SUNY graduate program to which they have been matriculated.
- An individual is eligible for only one CGRS award.

I. Introduction

Graduate fellowship awards not only bring in resources for students to pursue their graduate studies, but also increase the visibility of students and their home institutions. Many SUNY campuses already provide strong mentorship and guidance for fellowship-writing; SUNY is augmenting these efforts with webinars to assist in creating a culture of grant- and fellowship-writing.

The SUNY Chancellor’s Graduate Research Scholarship (SUNY CGRS) is designed to empower SUNY graduate students and senior undergraduates to apply for and win competitive Federal graduate fellowship awards and pursue their graduate studies within the SUNY system.

II. Program Goals

The goals of the SUNY CGRS are:

- to encourage outstanding SUNY graduate and senior undergraduate students to apply for competitive Federal graduate fellowship awards; and
- to provide students who win recognition with flexible funds that can augment their stipends or accelerate their research, progress, or professional development.
III. Eligibility

The SUNY CGRS award will be made to SUNY undergraduate, postbaccalaureate, or graduate students who meet all three of these conditions:

1. Apply to the National Science Foundation's Graduate Research Fellowship Program (GRFP), or to another stipend-providing Federal graduate fellowship program such as the Department of Defense's National Defense Science and Engineering Graduate Fellowship Program (DoD NDSEG), the Department of Energy's Office of Science Graduate Fellowship Program (DoE SCGF), or the National Institutes of Health's National Research Service Award (NRSA F30 or F31).\(^1\),\(^2\)
2. Win recognition in one of these competitions—either in the form of a stipend-bearing award or as an Honorable Mention (*NSF considers this a significant national honor, worthy of support if funds were available*).
3. Complete one subsequent year of satisfactory progress in a qualifying SUNY graduate program to which they have matriculated.

IV. Nomination, Selection, and Notification of Awardees

Students do not need to apply for SUNY CGRS; the scholarship will be awarded based on public announcements made by the Federal agencies. Those who apply to NSF GRFP should check the box on the application that allows NSF to announce their names if they win Honorable Mention.

1. Based on the public announcements made by NSF (around early April each year) and by the other fellowship agencies, all potentially eligible SUNY CGRS awardees will be placed on a nomination list.
2. The nomination list will be reviewed and approved by SUNY’s Office of Research and Economic Development (ORED).
3. The academic status of each student will be confirmed with the relevant campuses through the Office of the Dean of Graduate School. For students who are undergraduates on one SUNY campus and plan to attend another SUNY campus for graduate studies, both campuses will be contacted to confirm.
4. After confirmation, all eligible students will be informed that they are eligible to receive the SUNY CGRS at the end of the coming academic year, provided they have been admitted to and are enrolled in a SUNY graduate program at the end of the academic year and are in good standing.
5. At the end of the spring semester the year after the competition announcement (for the first round, in May 2021), SUNY will confirm the continuing enrollment of each nominee by contacting the appropriate Office of the Dean of the Graduate School.

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\(^1\) Note that Federal graduate fellowship programs relevant to CGRS require U.S. citizenship or permanent resident status. Students and their advisors are strongly encouraged to see each program’s solicitation for eligibility details.

\(^2\) Additional Federal fellowship programs such as NASA (National Aeronautics and Space Administration), USDA (Agriculture), DOC (Commerce), DOT (Transportation), DOJ (Justice), or Department of Education may be eligible as well, if associated with substantial multi-year stipends for graduate students selected as fellows.
V. Award Mechanism
Funds will be transferred from SUNY RF to the Sponsored Programs Office of the appropriate local graduate schools for disbursement to the students.

Appendix

NSF GRFP At-a-Glance
Every year since 1952, NSF has sought to recruit talented individuals to graduate study in STEM fields\(^3\) through the highly competitive Graduate Research Fellowship Program (GRFP). Since 2010, a total of 2,000 awards (and nearly as many Honorable Mentions) have been made each year across all STEM fields, making this the largest graduate fellowship program in the U.S.\(^4\) As of 2019, GRFP stipends are $34,000 for each of 3 years, with a cost-of-education (COE) allowance of $12,000 in lieu of tuition and fees. The awards are portable.

Other Federal Graduate Fellowship Programs
The Department of Defense (DoD) National Defense Science and Engineering Graduate Fellowship Program (NDSEG) makes 200 or fewer awards yearly to early-career graduate students in science and engineering disciplines of military importance. The Department of Energy (DoE) Office of Science Graduate Fellowship Program (SCGF) awards graduate fellowships in focused program areas as part of its scientific and national security missions. These programs pay full graduate tuition, with 2019 stipend levels of $36,000 for DoE SCGF and $38,400 for NDSEG (see agency websites for more details).

The National Institutes of Health's National Research Service Award makes individual predoctoral awards for supervised research training in specified health and health-related areas (with 2019 stipend levels of $24,816). NRSAs are known as "dissertation awards" and are tied to a PI and lab.

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\(^4\) Other Federal fellowship programs often follow NSF GRFP in defining the terms of their awards, although the stipend amounts and some of the terms do vary. Students may not accept more than one of these fellowships.