Diversity Fellowship
Informational

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Director
Outline

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Overview

- The *Diversity Fellowship* seeks to increase the diversity of the graduate student population, to maximize the educational benefits of diversity, and to support the development of scholars.

- Master’s students currently enrolled at TAMU are eligible for nomination.
Overview of Fellowships

- Nominees for the *Diversity Fellowship* might include individuals (for example):
  - representing minority groups that historically have been under-represented at TAMU and/or in their profession;
  - overcoming socioeconomic or other educational disadvantages;
  - who are first generation college graduates (neither parent earned a bachelor’s degree);
  - with disabilities, or veterans;
  - who will work on scholarly topics related to these areas.
Eligibility

- U.S. Citizens or Permanent Residents
- Seeking entry to a Master’s or Doctoral Program at TAMU
- Candidates must be graduating with a bachelor’s or master’s degree no later than August 2018 and enroll in TAMU in Fall 2018
Application Process

- Nominations originate from candidate’s faculty advisor (if identified), graduate program chair/advisor or department/program heads.

- Submissions are made through the Internet Grant Proposal System (IGPS).

- Only the best prospective students should be nominated.
Nominees must have submitted a complete application (applytexas.org) for graduate admission to Texas A&M by the date of their nomination.

- Student’s self-statement is valued by most reviewers.
- Includes reporting of standardized test scores.
- Data are verified if the student is awarded a Fellowship.
Application Process

- Completed nomination letter clearly describing how the student’s application meets all the selection criteria (2 pages maximum).
  - Beneficial to cover the evaluation criteria used by the reviewers.
  - Explanations of the value/impact/importance of various elements are more important than a restatement of data found elsewhere in the application.
Application Process

- Three (3) references for the student (6 pages total maximum).
  - Often beneficial to have letters from diverse, knowledgeable sources.
  - Document first hand experiences or present comparative information from a unique perspective (as possibilities) that set the student apart from the other applicants.
Application Process

- A statement of financial support (types and sources with $$ amounts) that will be offered to the candidate for the year(s) following the end of the Fellowship.
  
  - Awardees are expected to be offered financial support covering normative time to completion of their degree.
Application Process

- Student’s resume or curriculum vitae (4 pages maximum).

- Candidates do not have to be admitted at the time of nomination; however, departments are expected to admit awardees.
Application Process

- Nominations should include a diversity statement and relevant supporting data and narrative about the basis of the nominee’s eligibility regarding these markers of diversity.
Application Deadlines

- *Diversity Fellowship* nominations deadline 5 p.m., Friday, February 2, 2018.
Review Process

- Request faculty reviewers from Graduate Deans.
- Master’s and Doctoral applicant nominations reviewed separately.
- Three reviewers for each applications, with no reviewer associated with a nominating department.
Review Process

- Reviews are conducted within the IGPS systems.

- Reviewers are provided a scoring rubric and score each application accordingly. They are also able to provide comments as they desire.

- Scores and comments are reviewed by OGAPS for biases, inconsistencies, and irregularities.
Review Process

Graduate Diversity Fellowship

- **Evidence of Superior Academic Achievement (25%)**
  Class rank; GPA; Quality of undergraduate program; Honors or other Awards, etc.

- **Relevant Experiences Outside of the Classroom (25%)**
  Extracurricular experience related to course of study; Leadership experiences; Work experiences; Military experiences; Internships; Personal history; International experiences; Undergraduate research; Oral or Poster presentations; Publications, etc.

- **Other Indicators of Future Success (25%)**
  Strong letters of reference; Mentoring plan; Success at overcoming particular challenges; etc.
Review Process

Graduate Diversity Fellowship (continued)

- How this applicant can contribute to diversity in the nominating department/program and to his/her future profession. (25%)
  
  Applicant is from a minority group that historically has been under-represented at TAMU and/or in their profession; Overcome socioeconomic or other educational disadvantages; First generation college graduates (neither parent earned a bachelor’s degree); A person with a disability; Veteran; Will work on scholarly topics related to these areas, etc.
OGAPS will distribute office award letters soon after the selection committee reviews are completed.

Nominators, graduate advisors, department heads, and graduate deans will be notified of applicant selections.
Awards

- **Diversity Fellowship** – Doctoral Students
  - ~$103,800 over a three year period
    - $18,000 annual stipend for three years
    - $10,000 per year tuition and fees for three years
    - The nominating department must provide an assistantship of a minimum of 25% FTE at the department’s standard assistantship rate each year for three years. If the department provides a 50% FTE assistantship, it must also include payment of personal health insurance coverage equivalent to the graduate student health plan.
Awards

- **Diversity Fellowship** – Doctoral Students

  - In year 4, matching funding, at a minimum equivalent to the standard assistantship level for the nominating department, and tuition payment in year 4 is required for the department and/or faculty.
Awards

- Diversity Fellowship – Master’s Students
  - ~$59,200 over a two year period
    - $13,000 annual stipend for two years
    - $10,000 per year tuition and fees for two years
    - The nominating department must provide an assistantship of a minimum of 25% FTE at the department’s standard assistantship rate.
Awards

- Standard work effort for 25% FTE equals 10 hours/week
- For assistantships less than 50% FTE, OGAPS will provide reimbursement to the student for the cost of individual health insurance coverage equivalent to the student health insurance plan.
- Some exceptions may be approved by OGAPS for a department/program to offer a scholarship instead of an assistantship.
  - This request must be submitted to and approved by OGAPS before the nomination is submitted.
  - Department/program must also provide payment for student health insurance
Graduate Diversity Fellowship

2017 Masters GDF Offers by College

- Ag & Life Sciences: 4%
- Architecture: 3%
- Bush School: 9%
- Business: 41%
- Education: 4%
- Engineering: 4%
- Geosciences: 4%
- Interdisciplinary: 4%
- Liberal Arts: 4%
- Science: 38%
- Vet Medicine: 0%
- Health Science Center: 0%

2017 Doctoral GDF Offers by College

- Ag & Life Sciences: 4%
- Architecture: 20%
- Bush School: 3%
- Business: 2%
- Education: 6%
- Engineering: 0%
- Geosciences: 0%
- Interdisciplinary: 2%
- Liberal Arts: 1%
- Science: 29%
- Vet Medicine: 2%
- Health Science Center: 0%

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Expectations of Fellows

- Awardees must notify OGAPS of their decision to accept or decline their fellowship by **April 15**.

- Must maintain a 3.0 overall grade point average after their first semester to receive fellowship funding for the following semester. After the second semester (or summer semester) is completed the student must maintain a 3.25 overall grade point.
Expectations of Fellows

- Notify OGAPS of any program changes.
- Meet all reporting requests.
- Participation in Fellows and Professional Development activities.
Questions?

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