

Advice on Seeking Graduate Fellowships and other Funding

Fellowships:

- Definition of a Fellowship: Fellowships provide students with monetary support (often both tuition costs and a stipend for living expenses)—the student, in most cases, has no obligation during the academic year other than making good progress in his or her academic and research program. (An assistantship also provides a student with monetary support, but in return the student must work during the academic year as a research or teaching assistant.)
- Generally there are two kinds of fellowships: those offered by universities only for students attending their institution (internal fellowships) and those offered by national (or international) funding organizations—governmental or private—which can be used at most universities in the U.S. (and in some cases international universities.)

See our **Fellowship List** for both Georgia Tech and national fellowships on the web site at <http://www.undergradstudies.gatech.edu/fellowship/>.

- To search for more fellowships (our Selected Fellowship List is not comprehensive), we suggest two databases available on the internet:
 - a. <http://www.fastweb.monster.com> Free--Available without a subscription.
 - b. <http://www.cos.com/> This database maintained by the Community of Science is only available to those who have paid for a subscription—however, many universities are subscribers, including most schools in the University System of Georgia.

To search, go directly to <http://fundingopps2.cos.com/>

- **International students:** Generally, you need to be a U.S. citizen or permanent resident of the U.S. to be eligible for **fellowships** offered by Georgia Tech, U.S. agencies or U.S. foundations; therefore you will only be eligible for a few of the fellowships listed on our web site.

However, you may find fellowships for international students who want to study at U.S. universities on the two web sites listed above (<http://www.fastweb.monster.com> & <http://www.cos.com/>).

You might also consult the resource book: [Funding for United States Study: A Guide for International Students and Professionals](#)—published by the Institute of International Education and available in many libraries.

In addition, in most cases you will be eligible for graduate assistantships and/or graduate co-op positions.

- Ask your faculty recommenders and the department to which you are applying about fellowships you might consider.
- Fellowship applications are obtained from the funding organization and are almost always available on the funding organization's web site (our Fellowship List on our web site includes links).

- Read the application carefully--fellowship applications contain complete information about eligibility, terms of the fellowship, deadlines, selection criteria, and the goals of the organization offering the fellowship.
- **Fellowship Process and Deadlines:** The process of applying for a fellowship, being awarded the fellowship, and then receiving the money usually takes up to nine months. Often it is necessary to apply for fellowships before you have even sent in your graduate school application. (You only need to be accepted to graduate school before you receive the award, not before you apply for the award.)

Many external fellowships have Fall deadlines. For most fellowships you are eligible Fall of the last year in your undergraduate program and then again in the Fall of your first year of graduate school. In some cases you will be eligible again during the Fall of your second year of graduate school.

Be aware that many fellowships only support students who intend to pursue their Ph.D. (Exceptions: EPA, GEM, & Regents' Opportunity Scholarship for GA residents.)

Graduate Assistantships:

- The majority of students fund themselves with **graduate assistantships**; an assistantship will usually cover most of your tuition costs plus a stipend for living expenses. Be aware that many departments only award assistantships to Ph.D. students (or those planning to pursue the Ph.D. after their master's.). Academic departments award **graduate assistantships**; contact your department (or prospective department) for more information. You may have an assistantship with a different department than that of your major. Most students hold either teaching or research assistantships; there are also graduate student assistantship positions offered by various campus offices or programs at the university.

Graduate Co-op:

- Some students fund their graduate study through professional positions obtained through the graduate cooperative program. For more information, contact the Division of Professional Practice, Mr. Robert James.
<<http://www.profpractice.gatech.edu/students/office.html>>.

Further information about how to fund your graduate studies:

- Contact the Office of Student Financial Planning and Services for information about funding your graduate studies. A counselor there can give you information about loans and discuss your entire financial package with you—404-894-4160--finaid@gatech.edu--<<http://www.finaid.gatech.edu>>.

More Questions?

- If you have more questions after reviewing this handout, you can discuss your funding situation with the graduate coordinator in your department. (To find out who the graduate coordinator is, see the web page for your current or prospective department. Start at the Georgia Tech main web page <<http://www.gatech.edu>> and click on *Colleges & Schools*.)

Advice on fellowship writing issues:

- If you intend to apply for an external fellowship (and are a Georgia Tech student), Dr. Amanda Gable, Fellowship Communication Program, provides advice on the entire process of applying for fellowships, including how to write successful fellowship essays. If you are a Georgia Tech student, contact Dr. Gable to find out when a workshop will be offered or to make an individual appointment.