Fellowship Opportunities for: International Students

For information contact:
Dr. Kathryn E. Ágoston,
Director of Graduate Fellowships
George Mason University
kagoston@gmu.edu
703-993-3131 (Office)

Introduction

International students face special challenges when it comes to graduate fellowships. Because many fellowship programs are restricted to U.S. citizens and permanent residents, opportunities for international students are harder to come by. This also means that programs with no citizenship restrictions can be intensely competitive, particularly if they are open to a wide range of disciplines or fields.

There are, however, many targeted opportunities, especially at the doctoral / Ph.D. level. The following list contains a sampling of different kinds of awards to help international students begin their search. This list is by no means comprehensive, and students are encouraged to search for funding opportunities that may be uniquely targeted to their field, topic, or national/ethnic identity. Online databases maintained by major research universities are a good place to start because they will allow you to conduct a wide search. Professional organizations, diaspora community organizations, and private foundations can also help guide you to awards targeted at a specific field, and are more likely to be open to international student applicants.

Graduate students are encouraged to actively seek and apply for fellowships that fit their needs and goals. Fellowships are not only a means of funding your education. The fellowship application process is also an opportunity to define your goals, think critically about your work, and develop valuable academic and job skills. Even if you do not ultimately win an award, you will benefit from the process.

When applying to fellowships, you should always have a backup plan. Fellowship programs are competitive and funding is limited, meaning that even many highly qualified candidates will be turned away. What’s more, most fellowships provide only partial funding and/or set limits on how funding can be used. They should be approached more as a kind of professional honor and a way to enhance your research than a financial plan.

The key to realistic planning is to start early and familiarize yourself with the opportunities that are most relevant to you. The Office of Graduate fellowships is available to provide advising, support, and feedback on graduate fellowship proposals. Students interested in applying to graduate fellowship programs are encouraged to meet early with Dr. Ágoston to discuss goals, opportunities, and strategies.
AERA Dissertation Grants
http://www.aera.net/grantsprogram/res_training/diss_grants/DGFly.html
Supports education-related dissertation research using large scale national and international data sets supported by NCES, NSF, or other federal agencies. Research should be quantitative and policy-related. For advanced doctoral students. Deadline: December 9, 2011. No citizenship restrictions.

AIIS Junior Fellowships
http://www.indiastudies.org/catalog.cfm?dest=dir&linkon=Section&linkid=78
Available to doctoral candidates at U.S. institutions in all fields of study for dissertation research in India. No citizenship restrictions.

Allen Lee Hughes Fellowship at Arena Stage
http://www.arenastage.org/education/education-programs/internships-fellowships/
For individuals interested in artistic and technical production, arts administration and community engagement. Fellowship provides a modest stipend and is intended to increase participation of people of color in the arts. Deadline for season fellowship is April 15. A summer internship program is also available, deadline March 15.

American Association for University Women - International Fellowships
http://www.aauw.org/fga/fellowships_grants/international.cfm
Full-time study or research to women who are not U.S. citizens or permanent residents; graduate and postgraduate study is supported.

American Nuclear Society (ANS) Graduate Scholarships
http://ans.org/honors/scholarships/
Awards to prepare for careers in nuclear science and technology. Use the link and scroll down to the bottom of the page to see a list of graduate student awards. A variety of awards are listed, all with different profiles and deadlines.

Asian Cultural Council
http://www.asianculturalcouncil.org/?page_id=20
Open to individuals from the US (citizens and permanent residents) or Asia in the visual and performing arts for research, cultural exchange, observation tours, or specialized training. (US applicants to visit Asia, Asian applicants to visit US.) Letters of inquiry accepted September 1 – October 31 of each year.

Association for Women in Science Educational Awards
http://www.awis.org/
Awards of up to $3,000 for female graduate students or early career professionals in STEM fields. Applicant must have already received at least a bachelor’s degree. Award may be used for professional development activities such as attending a conference, acquiring specialized training, or travel for professional development. Deadline: December 31, 2011

Christine Mirzayan Science & Technology Policy Graduate Fellowship Program
http://www7.nationalacademies.org/policyfellows/
Funds graduate students and recent graduate degree recipients to participate in a semester-long DC-based program focused on science and technology policy. Open to student in social/behavioral science, medical/health discipline, physical or biological science, any field of engineering, law/business/public administration, or any relevant interdisciplinary fields

Cosmos Scholarships
http://www.cosmosclubfoundation.org/scholars/grants-program.html
Small grant ($500-$3,000) in support of graduate level research in any field. Limited to graduate students at DC metro area universities. No citizenship restrictions.
Davis-Putter Scholarships
http://www.davisputer.org/
Need-based grants (up to $10,000) to undergraduate or graduate students actively working for peace and justice on campus and/or in the community. No citizenship restrictions, but applicant must be enrolled in a U.S. institution and residing in the U.S. during their studies. Preference is given to applicants who show an interest in continuing their activism in the U.S. after graduation.

Environmental Research and Education Foundation (EREF) Scholarships
http://erefdn.org/index.php/scholarships/
A variety of different scholarships are awarded annually by EREF to recognize excellence in master’s, doctoral or post-doctoral waste management research and education.

Explorers Club Exploration Fund
http://www.explorers.org/index.php/expeditions/funding/expedition_grants
Exploration Fund, for graduate, post-graduate, doctorate and early career post-doctoral students, provides grants in support of exploration and field research for those who are just beginning their research careers. Our awards typically range from $500-1500 US for both funds. A few awards may be granted up to a $5000 award level. Deadline mid-November.

Five Colleges Fellowship Program
http://www.fivecolleges.edu/academic_programs/academprog_fellowship.html
Year-long residency for doctoral students completing dissertation. This program supports scholars from under-represented groups and/or scholars with unique interests and histories. Fellows will complete the dissertation in residence at Amherst College, Hampshire College, Mount Holyoke College, or Smith College. Most fellows also teach 1 course while in residence. $30,000 plus other support. Open to all fields with no citizenship restrictions.

Harambe Entrepreneur Alliance
http://www.healliance.org/content/bsymposium/hbwsapp.php
Opportunities for African students interested in entrepreneurship in a range of fields including business, microfinance, global health, public policy, agriculture, and gender.

Harry Frank Guggenheim Dissertation Fellowships
http://www.hfg.org/df/guidelines.htm
Dissertation completion fellowship for candidates whose Ph.D. research concerns issues of violence and aggression in society. No citizenship restrictions.

Humane Studies Fellowships
http://www.theihs.org/internshipling.aspx
For undergraduate and graduate students interested in the classical liberal/libertarian tradition of individual rights and market economies. Open to a variety of fields although Economics predominates. Awards range from $2,000-$15,000. No citizenship restrictions.

Inter-American Foundation (IAF) Fellowships
www.iie.org/iaf
Supports dissertation research on grassroots development in Latin America and the Caribbean undertaken by students who have advanced to Ph.D. candidacy in a university in the United States. Fellows may be U.S. citizens or citizens of an independent Latin America or Caribbean country (except Cuba).

International Dissertation Field Research Fellowships
http://www.ssrc.org/programs/idrf/
For Ph.D. students in the social sciences and humanities conducting dissertation field research in all areas and regions of the world. Student must be advanced to doctoral candidacy by the time the award begins.
Jack Kent Cooke Dissertation Fellowship Award
http://www.jkcf.org/scholarships/graduate-scholarships/jack-kent-cooke-dissertation-fellowship-award/
$25,000 award to support advanced doctoral students who are completing dissertations that further the understanding of the educational pathways and experiences of high-achieving, low-income students. No citizenship restrictions. Deadline: February 3, 2012

Japan-IMF Scholarship Program
For Japanese citizens pursuing the Ph.D degree in Economics (macroeconomics) outside Japan to prepare them for work as economists and the International Monetary Fund. Student must not be beyond the second year of the Ph.D. program at the time of application.

Jennings Randolph Peace Scholarship Dissertation Program
http://www.usip.org/fellows/scholars.html
Supports doctoral dissertations that explore the sources and nature of international conflict, and strategies to prevent or end conflict and to sustain peace. Citizens of all countries are eligible, but must be enrolled in an accredited college or university in the United States.

Josephine de Karman Fellowships
http://www.dekarman.org
Open to students in any discipline, including international students, who are currently enrolled in a university or college located within the United States. Graduate fellowships are for doctoral students in their final year of dissertation completion. Postdoctoral and masters degree students are not eligible for consideration. Special consideration will be given to applicants in the Humanities.

Kate Neal Kinley Memorial Fellowship
faa.illinois.edu/files/KateNealKinley2009.pdf
Three fellowships annually ($9,000 - $20,000 depending on field) to defray the cost of advanced study (Master’s or Doctorate) of the fine arts, theatre, and urban/regional planning in the United States or abroad. No citizenship requirements. Deadline: December 3, 2011.

King Faisal Foundation Scholarship
http://www.kff.com/
Funding opportunity for Muslim students in the sciences, engineering, medicine, and geology to study at an accredited European or North American university.

Margaret McNamara Memorial Fund Scholarships
http://www.mmmf-grants.org/grants-us.html
For women from developing countries currently studying in the U.S. or Canada who will be at least 25 years of age by December 31, 2011. Recipients agree to return to their home country after graduation to perform service. Special emphasis on service toward improving the lives of women and children in developing countries.

NAEd / Spencer Dissertation Fellowship
http://naeducation.org/NAEd_Spencer_Dissertation_Fellowship.html
$25,000 dissertation completion fellowship for research relevant to the improvement of education. No citizenship restrictions. Deadline: Early October

NSF Doctoral Dissertation Improvement Grants (DDIG) – Directorate of Biological Sciences
The National Science Foundation awards Doctoral Dissertation Improvement Grants in selected areas of the biological sciences (Environmental Biology and Integrative Organismal Systems). These grants provide partial support of doctoral dissertation research to improve the overall quality of research. Applicant must be studying at a U.S. institution but need not be a U.S. citizen. Deadline: Early November
NSF Social & Behavioral Sciences Doctoral Dissertation Research Improvement Grant (DDRIG)  
http://www.nsf.gov/funding/pgm_summ.jsp?pims_id=13453  
Grants to doctoral students in a wide range of social and behavioral science disciplines and interdisciplinary fields to improve the quality of dissertation research. These grants provide funds for items not normally available through the student’s university. Applicant must be studying at a U.S. institution but need not be a U.S. citizen. Deadlines vary by field. Some fields run multiple application cycles per year.

P.E.O. International Peace Scholarship  
http://www.peointernational.org/peo-projectsphilanthropies  
Grants to female international students to pursue or continue graduate studies in the United States and Canada. Student must have at least one year of coursework remaining in their program, and must plan to enroll full time during the scholarship year. Maximum award is $10,000; smaller awards are possible. Award is based on demonstrated need, but is not intended to fully cover all the student’s academic or personal expenses. Prospective applicants must submit eligibility paperwork between August 15 – December 15 annually. Those found eligible must submit remaining application materials by January 31.

Smithsonian Fellowships  
http://www.si.edu/ofg/fell.htm  
The Smithsonian offers fellowships in a variety of fields and at all levels (graduate, pre-doctoral, post-doctoral, senior.) Some opportunities are open to non-US citizens.

UNESCO/ Keizo Obuchi Fellowships  
For young researchers with advanced degrees (M.A., M.Sc. or equivalent) from developing countries specializing in one of four areas: environment, intercultural dialogue, information and communication technologies, and peaceful conflict resolution. The fellowship funds overseas research, preferably in the candidate’s home region.

Zonta International Amelia Earhardt Fellowship for Women  
http://www.zonta.org/WhatWeDo/InternationalPrograms/AmeliaEarhartFellowship.aspx  
For women in aerospace-related science/engineering programs to undertake research toward a Ph.D. No citizenship restrictions.