

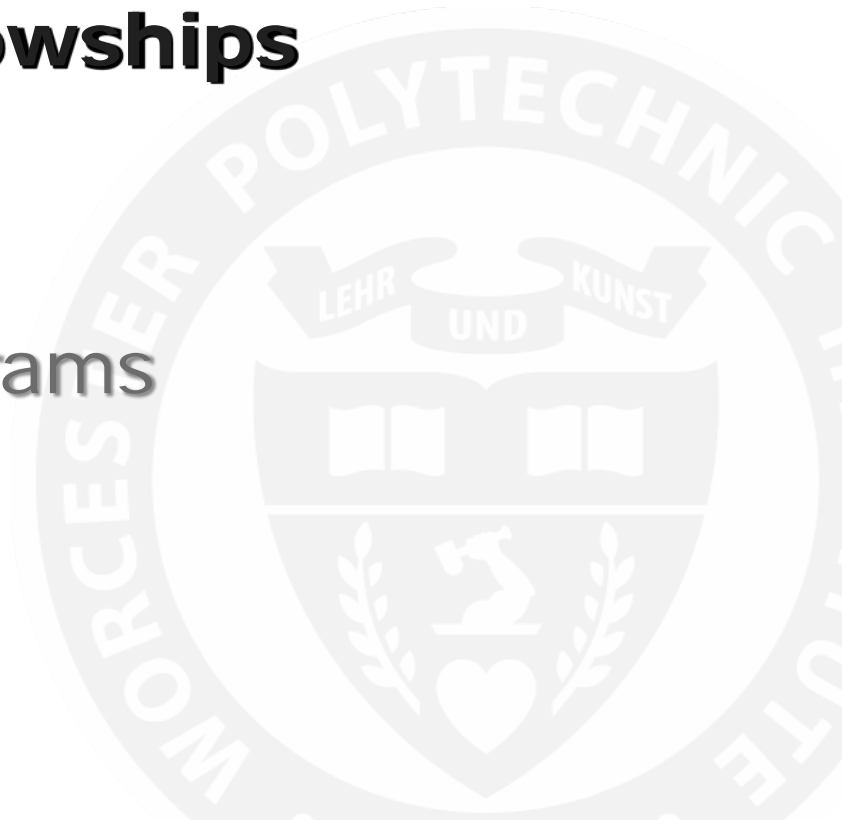


# WPI

## **Graduate Student Fellowships**

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Office of Sponsored Programs



# Types of Graduate Funding

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- Research Assistantships
  - Funded by faculty's research funding
  - Typically funded through proposal process
- Teaching Assistantships
  - Funded by department
  - Teaching-related responsibilities, separate from research
- Graduate Fellowships

# What is a Fellowship?

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- Per IRS definition, it is an amount paid or allowed to, or for the benefit of, an individual to aid him/her in the pursuit of study or research
- No services in return for the funding
- To be used for study or research
- No need to pay back
- Often portable
- Typically based on merit, not need

# Why apply for a Fellowship?

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- It's a guaranteed source of funding—for a period of time
- Allows you to focus on your own studies/research
- Stipends are often higher than those of Research or Teaching Assistants
- Fellowships are often portable
  - more autonomy in selecting advisor, research project
- Fellowship can be path to a job (e.g., National Lab)

# Two Types of Fellowships

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- Awards directly to Students
  - Students compete directly for award
  - Award typically moves with the student if the student moves to a different university
  - May still have to be submitted by the institution on behalf of the student—OSP helps
- Awards to the Institution
  - Institution (faculty department, school) pick fellows/trainees
  - Can be need-based
  - Application needs to go through OSP

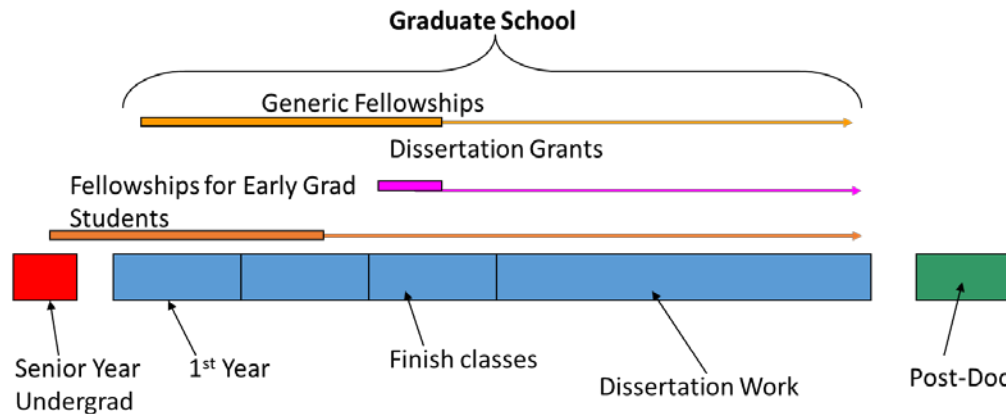
# Institutional Awards/Training Programs

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- Awarded to departments, programs, etc.
- Students selected by department, program or faculty
- Funding may be tied to financial need of the student
- Examples:
  - Graduate Assistantships in Areas of National Need (GAANN)
  - NSF Integrative Graduate Education and Research Traineeship (IGERT)
  - NSF Alliances for Graduate Education and the Professoriate
  - NIH NRSA Institutional Pre-doctoral Training Grant (T32)

# Graduate Fellowship—Purpose/Timing

- General graduate work
- Early graduate career fellowships
- Dissertation grants
- Travel/field work grants



# Graduate Fellowships—Examples

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- Dissertation Grants
  - Mellon/ACLS Dissertation Completion Fellowships (humanities and social sciences; no citizenship requirement—up to \$38k)
  - Ford Foundation Dissertation Fellowship
    - Support for final year of dissertation at \$25,000
    - Citizens and permanent residents only
    - Diversity component; minority status is one of the criteria for selection
- After coursework completed
  - Example: American Heart Association Fellowship (no citizenship requirement)
- General graduate work
  - Example: NSF GRFP (citizenship requirement)



# Finding Potential Fellowships

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- Fellowship programs often targeted based on
  - discipline
  - demographic group
    - Women,
    - minorities,
    - international students
- Excellent web resources available
  - Cornell: <http://www.gradschool.cornell.edu/?p=132>
  - Agency/foundation websites
  - Pivot— [http://pivot.cos.com/funding\\_main](http://pivot.cos.com/funding_main)
- Talk to faculty and students in your department

# Federal Fellowships

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- Many federal agencies have fellowship programs
- Most (if not all) have citizenship or residency requirements
- Some of them submitted individually by the student
- Some of them are submitted by the institution
- They usually pay stipend, tuition and health insurance
- Most of them have to be submitted through some electronic, often agency-specific, system
- OSP can help!

# Federal Fellowships to Individuals

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- National Science Foundation
  - Three years at \$32,000/year
  - Student applies directly
- EPA Science to Achieve Results (STAR) Fellowships for Graduate Environmental Study
- Department of Energy Computational Science Graduate Fellowship
  - Up to 4 years with a stipend of \$36,000/year
  - Payment of full tuition and fees
- National Defense Science and Engineering Graduate Fellowship
  - About 200 new 3-year graduate fellowships awarded annually
  - Pursuing doctoral degree in, or closely related to a science or engineering discipline

# Federal Fellowships to Individuals through the Institution

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- National Institutes of Health Fellowship Program (F31)
  - Mentored research training
  - Apply through the institution
- NASA EARTH AND SPACE SCIENCE FELLOWSHIP (NESSF) PROGRAM
  - Up to three years; \$24,000 stipend/year
  - Institution applies on behalf of the student
  - More clearly defined subject area focus
- NSF Dissertation Grants
- Fulbright-Hays Doctoral Dissertation Research Abroad Fellowships administered by the Dept. of Education
- NIJ Graduate Fellowships (Dept. of Justice)

# Fellowships through the Institution

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- Need to go through OSP
  - Contact OSP early
  - Budget enough time for OSP review and approval process
  - We may have to register with an electronic system
- Institutional Advancement helps with applications to foundations
  - Example: American Heart Foundation
  - OSP and IA coordinate with each other

# Foundation Fellowships-Examples

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- American Heart Association (Founders Affiliate)
  - Must have completed coursework
  - Students on a student visa are eligible to apply
  - Awards are for one or two years (total max. amount \$51,900)
  - Have to be submitted by the institution—OSP!
- Hertz Foundation Graduate Fellowship
  - For applied physical, biological, and engineering sciences
  - Up to 5 years; \$32,000/year
  - Citizens or residents
  - Portable, but school must be or become participating school
- Microsoft Research Ph.D. Fellowships
  - 2 years funding
  - Must be nominated by their university
  - computer science, electrical engineering, math
  - Payment to university; not portable

# Dissertation Travel/Study Abroad Fellowships

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- NSF Doctoral Dissertation Research Improvement Grant
  - no citizenship requirement
  - partial support of doctoral dissertation research; participate in meeting; travel to field settings;
  - Up to \$13,000 for up to 24 months; no salaries/stipends
  - Submitted by advisor through OSP
- Fulbright U.S. Student Program
  - All over the world
  - E.g., support for 10 months to study at Max Planck in Germany
  - U.S. Citizens only
- DAAD Research Grants
  - For study in Germany
  - For doctoral candidates
  - Don't necessarily need to know German
  - 7 to 10 months

# Funding for International Students

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- American Association of University Women - International Fellowships.
  - \$18,000-\$30,000 awards to women graduate students studying in the United States who are not U.S. citizens.
- American Heart Association Predoctoral Fellowship
- HHMI International Student Research Fellowship
  - Supports years 3 to 5 of a Ph.D. program
  - Can only be nominated by institutions that have an HHMI investigator
- Fulbright International Science and Technology Award
  - Funding for 3 years; students must apply through their home countries
- Country of Origin-Specific Fellowships
  - Vietnam Education Foundation Fellowship Program
  - China Scholarship Council Graduate Fellowship Program
  - Iraqi Scholarship Initiative



# Fellowships for Minorities

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- Ford Foundation/National Academies
  - Three years at \$21,000/year
- American Sociological Association - Minority Fellowship Program.
  - An annual stipend of \$14,688 for up to three years
  - early stages of sociology graduate programs with emphasis on mental health
- United Negro College Fund & Merck Foundation Science Initiative
  - Graduate Science Research Dissertation Fellowships.
  - Up to \$43,500 stipend for up to 24 months plus \$10,000 in research support
  - to assist African-American graduate students in biological, chemical engineering fields

# Fellowships for Women

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- American Association of University Women
  - International Fellowships.
  - \$18,000-\$30,000 awards to women graduate students studying in the United States who are not U.S. citizens.
- American Association of University Women
  - Selected Professions Fellowships.
  - Approximately \$5,000-12,000 awards for the final year of graduate study
  - in historically under-represented professions, including Computer Sciences, Mathematics, and Engineering.
- Society of Women Engineers
  - Small amounts; specific purpose, e.g., travel to conference

# Typical Application Components

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- Biographical information/Resume
- GRE scores
- Transcript
- Letters of Reference
- Essay/Proposal
  - Discussion of proposed research
  - May include discussion of one or more research experiences
- Follow guidelines to the letter!!!

# Example: NSF Fellowship

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- \$32,000 per year plus \$12,000 education allowance or 3 years
- Must be US Citizen or permanent resident
- May apply:
  - during undergrad senior year
  - prior to or during 1<sup>st</sup> year of grad school,
  - or at beginning of 2<sup>nd</sup> year of grad school
- Application by individual student
- Awarded to the institutions for the student

# How to Apply for NSF Fellowship

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- Read the guidelines and solicitation carefully
- Apply on-line using NSF's FastLane system
- Parts of application
  - Graduate Research Plan Statement ( 2 pages)
  - Personal Relevant Background and Future Goals Statement (3 pages)
  - 3 Reference letters by reference deadline
  - Academic transcripts
- Pay attention to formatting guidelines—they are very important!!
  - "Failure to comply fully with these requirements will result in the application being returned without review."

# When applying, keep in mind!

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- Read the solicitation/guidelines
- Analyze what the funder is looking for
  - Required components
  - Priority research areas
  - Broader impacts
- Follow the guidelines carefully
- Make a case for yourself and your project
- Have a peer or mentor read it
- Be aware of the deadline
- Get OSP involved early if the fellowship application needs to be submitted by the institution!

# Helpful Information

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- OSP website: <http://www.wpi.edu/offices/osp.html>
- OSP contact information:  
<http://www.wpi.edu/offices/osp/staff.html>
- Institutional Advancement:  
<https://www.wpi.edu/offices/giving/institutional-advancement.html>
- Pivot: [http://pivot.cos.com/funding\\_main](http://pivot.cos.com/funding_main)