

PROVOST GRADUATE FELLOWSHIP, 2017–18

I. MISSION

The **Provost Graduate Fellowship (PGF)** provides grants for promising new PhD students whose presence diversifies our institution and the academy. Generously funded by Provost Landgren, these awards signify the commitment of UC's leadership to making graduate education mirror the demographics of American society.

As our reflections about equality, diversity and minority access to academic opportunity continue, we remember that graduate education—and particularly doctoral education that forms future scholars—remains integral to reimagining the university. Graduate students conduct research, teach and mentor undergraduates, and assist their future faculty colleagues in laboratories and archives, seminar rooms and lecture halls. They are tomorrow's professors, leaders and researchers, so ensuring that they hail from the broadest possible demographic pool is an essential component of any institutional diversity strategy.

Increasing the share of underrepresented ethnic or racial minorities as recipients of doctoral degrees diversifies the Graduate School and our pipeline of future academic talent.

The Graduate School will offer three PGF awards per year to incoming PhD students, with each winner receiving three years of a full-tuition scholarship in addition to a yearly living stipend of \$25,000. Annual renewal will depend on the student's continued good academic standing and satisfactory progress toward degree completion. The fellowships will require no work commitments.

These new PGFs supplement the Graduate School's existing Yates Fellowship competition, which also awards grants to underrepresented minority candidates. Unlike the Yates program, applications for PGFs will be limited to individuals entering a Doctor of Philosophy program. In a research-intensive university, the PhD degree holds a unique status as the topmost certification the institution provides; the mechanism by which it perpetuates its highest ideals of discovery, scholarship and innovation; and the means by which graduates ready themselves for academic positions. For these reasons, and unlike the Yates competition, the PGFs will be offered exclusively to PhD admits.

II. SELECTION CRITERIA

PhD admits from ethnic minorities underrepresented in the nominating program are eligible for a PGF at the time they matriculate. Students entering other types of doctoral degree programs are *not* eligible for this award; it is limited to new students entering a Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) program specifically. In all cases, nominating programs/departments must document that the student's demographic origin is underrepresented *within the graduate program* to the satisfaction of the selection committee.

Students of ethnicities underrepresented in the nominating program are eligible for a Provost Fellowship. Underrepresented minorities include, but not limited to, the following groups:

- African American
- Asian/ Pacific Islander
- Latino/a or Hispanic American
- Native American/Alaskan Native

Students who are currently in a UC graduate program or have already received a UC graduate degree are *not* eligible for the PGF. Students who have earned an undergraduate degree from UC are still eligible.

Awards will be made on the basis of:

- Nominee's potential for academic achievement*
- Strength of the program's recommendation
- Strength of the program's plan for academic and mentoring support of the nominee, including a timeline and proposal for the use of the funding
- Merits of the program's explicit plan for funding the student after this three-year fellowship expires
- Nominee's written statement
- Nominee's status as a U.S. citizen or permanent resident
- Underrepresentation of nominee's ethnic background within the program

** Potential may be measured by past academic performance, demonstrated skills, outstanding accomplishment, response to personal or academic challenges, and other qualities deemed appropriate by the selection committee.*

III. AWARD STRUCTURE

The Graduate School will provide full tuition-remission funding for each Provost Graduate Fellow for three consecutive academic years. In addition, each awardee will receive a living stipend of \$25,000 per year in each of these three years; the stipend will be disbursed throughout twelve months, which means it will provide summer support. This fellowship provides no funding to cover fees of any kind.

Each graduate program may nominate only one potential student, and the nominee must be a U.S. citizen or permanent resident.

To maintain eligibility for funding as a Provost Fellow, the student must be registered for at least 12 credits/term, remain in good academic standing (GPA 3.0 or greater), and make satisfactory progress toward degree completion.

These funds (both tuition-remission and stipend) may not be associated with any work assignments. Students may certainly accept work assignments from other funding sources if they wish, but programs should balance the magnitude of student service work with the academic expectations of rapid student progress.

During each semester of the Provost Fellow's first year, the program must provide an end-of-term progress report (around week 13) to the Graduate School from the faculty adviser regarding the student's academic progress to date (including grades) and departmental integration.

Each Provost Fellow will also have access to additional funds to defray some of the cost of Student Health Insurance. If students need this university-supplied insurance, they will receive *up to* \$1,000 per year for the three years in which they hold this fellowship. These funds may not be used to pay for other fees or costs. When this benefit is combined with the [GSHI award for graduate assistants and fellows](#), the yearly cost of health insurance will be negligible.

The Graduate School will post the tuition scholarship, stipend and health insurance funds (when applicable) to the fellow's student account.

Programs remain free to nominate incoming students for both the Yates and Provost Fellowships, although the application and selection processes for these opportunities remain separate. Units wishing to nominate students for both opportunities must therefore submit separate applications for each fellowship (and, again, may nominate up to three students for the Yates and only one for the Provost).

IV. NOMINATIONS AND AWARDS PROCESS

Programs must complete the following steps in the nomination process:

- Affirm how the applicant's interests match the goals of their graduate program and what makes this applicant an exciting candidate for a PGF award.
- Provide a thorough plan for academic and mentoring support of the Fellow.
- Provide plans for financial support of the student beyond the 3 years of the PGF award
- Describe the record of graduating underrepresented students from the program.

Should a student be dismissed or leave before completing the degree, the academic program must report the reason for the attrition.