2018–19 YATES FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM

I. MISSION

The mission of the Albert C. Yates Fellowship Program at the University of Cincinnati is to enrich the educational environment for all graduate students by supporting the recruitment and retention of underrepresented minority groups who are U.S. citizens or permanent residents with high potential for academic success as full-time students in UC graduate programs.

II. SELECTION CRITERIA

Students of ethnicities underrepresented in the applying program are eligible for a Yates 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

In all cases, applying programs/departments must document that the student’s ethnicity is underrepresented within the graduate program to the satisfaction of the Yates selection committee.

Furthermore, students who are currently in a UC graduate program or have already received a UC graduate degree are not eligible for the Yates Fellowship Program. Students who have earned an undergraduate degree from UC are still eligible.

Awards will be made on the basis of:

- Student’s potential for academic achievement.*
- Student’s application packet, including (but not limited to) grades, test scores, recommendation letters and written statement.
- Student’s status as a U.S. citizen or permanent resident.
- Rationale provided by the program of underrepresentation of student’s ethnicity within the program.
- Strength of the program’s recommendation.
- Strength of the program’s plan for academic and mentoring support of the student.
- Strength of the program’s financial plan for recruiting and retaining the student. Plan must include the required number of terms of summer support and a timeline for the full disbursement of Yates funds.

*Potential may be measured by past academic performance, demonstrated skills, outstanding accomplishment, tenacious attitude and/or other qualities deemed appropriate by the selection committee.
III. Award Structure

The Graduate School will provide a single lump sum to the program of each selected Yates Fellow to support student living expenses: $25,000 for students entering a doctoral program and $20,000 for students entering a master’s degree program. As described below, programs must spread the funds over the years of the student’s graduate program to support the successful recruitment and retention of the student.

Each Yates Fellow will also have access to additional funds to defray some of the cost of Graduate Student Health Insurance. If students need this university-supplied insurance, they will receive up to $1,000/academic year for several years (3 academic years for doctoral students and up to 2 academic years for master’s students). When this benefit is combined with the GSHI award for graduate assistants and fellows, the yearly cost of health insurance will be negligible. These funds cannot be used to pay for any other fees or charges.

In addition, the Graduate School will provide a 100% Graduate Assistant Scholarship for each Yates Fellow. (An additional GAS slot will be awarded to the student’s home college.) This GAS award will continue for 4 academic years for doctoral students and up to 2 academic years for master’s students. To maintain eligibility for funding as a Yates 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 the degree.

The following guidelines govern the use of the lump sum provided to programs in support of successful student recruitment and retention:

a. If programs do not include summer funding in their regular stipends, they must use Yates funds to pay multiple summer stipends for Yates Fellows. For doctoral students, at least 3 summers must be funded. For master’s students, either one or two summers must be funded, depending on the length of the graduate program.

b. All monies awarded to the program for each Yates Fellow must be received by the student, regardless of the periodicity of disbursement. Yates stipends are supplementary to GA awards. These stipends do not replace the graduate assistantship award given to a student.

c. Graduate School funds should not be associated with any work assignments. For example, if funds are used to support summer stipends, students should not be required to work during the summer.

d. Yates Fellows may still have student work assignments, but they must be paid by other funds for those assignments. The depth of accessory student service work should be balanced against the academic expectations of rapid student progress.

e. All Yates Fellows receiving graduate assistantships must receive at least the same level of support as graduate assistants with similar responsibilities in the program as long as they are attending full time (12 credits/term) and making satisfactory progress toward their degree (GPA 3.0 or greater).

f. During each semester of the Yates 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.
IV. APPLICATION PROCESS

The Yates Fellowship Program application form is only available in Slate. It is the responsibility of the program to identify which applicants fulfill all eligibility requirements for the Yates.

Once a program identifies a student to nominate for a Yates fellowship, they will select the corresponding application form link in the Slate “Yates Application” shared query. The application form will pre-populate with the student’s name and program and will automatically incorporate the Slate admission application into the Yates application for the Yates selection committee. The form will ask for the following information (which may be prepared beforehand):

- Select student’s representation as a member of an underrepresented minority group.
- Ranking if the department plans to nominate multiple students.
- Short rationale for the ranking. (Text Box)
- Rationale that persons of the student’s ethnicity/race are seriously underrepresented—underrepresented in terms of population of minority group within program as compared to population of minority group within U.S.—within the graduate program. (Text Box)
- Description of the program’s record of graduating underrepresented students from the program. (Text Box)
- The program’s allocation plan for funding the candidate using both the Yates fellowship funds and program/departmental/other funds. (PDF File Upload)
  - Plan must account for full sum of Yates stipend funds ($20,000 for master’s students/$25,000 for doctoral students). The Yates provides 2 years of tuition scholarship for master’s students, and 4 years for doctoral students.
  - Plan must include summer funding for the student for the number of years required by the Yates Fellowship Program. For doctoral students, at least 3 summers must be funded. For master’s students, two summers must be funded, unless the student graduates prior to the second summer, in which case, only one funded summer is required. Programs that provide 12-month stipends must explicitly state this to satisfy the summer funding requirement.
  - Plan must include program director’s signature.
- If program plans to offer a GA position, they must affirm that the program will support the Yates candidate with at least the same level of funding as other graduate assistants with equal responsibility in the program for all years as long as the student is attending full-time (12 credit hours/term) and making satisfactory progress towards his or her degree. (Check Box)
- A thorough plan for academic and mentoring support of the candidate, including a timeline until graduation. The Graduate School recommends the University of Nebraska-Lincoln’s Graduate Mentoring Guidebook as an excellent resource for developing a mentoring plan. Should the student be awarded a Yates fellowship, this mentorship plan will be included in the student’s Yates offer letter. (Text Box, 500 word limit)
- For students who apply via a CAS: a PDF file upload button will appear on the Yates application form to allow programs to upload the CAS application for the selection committee members’ review. Only the selection committee members will be able to view these documents.
- Optional: additional materials to support the student’s Yates application, such as a portfolio submitted through a non-Slate system (PDF file upload). Note: Do not upload any materials from the Slate admission application; the selection committee will be able to view all Slate application materials.

Recipients will be selected by a faculty committee appointed by the associate dean and the dean of the Graduate School.
V. AWARDS PROCESS

The tuition scholarship and stipend award letters from the associate university dean of the Graduate School (Dr. James Mack) will be accompanied by a letter outlining a specific timetable for the disbursement of funds over the student’s residency, beginning with matriculation. The letter will include the mentoring plan, as provided by the program in the Yates application, and will stipulate that the student will be required to attend monthly meetings with their fellow first year Yates Fellows (class schedule permitting).

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