

2022–23 PROVOST GRADUATE FELLOWSHIP

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 Ferme, 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 PGF awards 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 a 100% Graduate Assistant Scholarship 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 in the fall and spring semesters, remain in good academic standing (GPA 3.0 or greater), and make satisfactory progress toward degree completion. First year fellows will also be required to attend monthly meetings (organized by the Graduate School) with their fellow Provost Graduate Fellows and Yates Fellows, class schedule permitting.

Neither the tuition scholarship nor stipend funds may 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.

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 fellowship stipend and health insurance funds (when applicable) to the fellow's student account. An additional GAS slot will be allocated to the fellow's home college. It will be the program's responsibility to post the tuition scholarship.

Throughout the fellow's first year, the student must work with their "Provost mentor" to create an [Individual Development Plan \(IDP\)](#) using [the Graduate School's IDP template \(docx\)](#). The fellow will then be required to revise/update their IDP **annually**, for every year they receive PGF funding. New and revised/updated IDPs will typically be due to the Graduate School in spring semester, in early April. Once the fellow has received all three years of PFG funding, they are no longer required to submit an annual IDP to the Graduate School. However, the Provost Graduate Fellowship Program encourages programs to continue working with fellows on revising and updating their IDPs on at least an annual basis until the student graduates.

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). Students who are awarded a Provost Fellowship will be automatically withdrawn from consideration for the Yates Fellowship.

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.
- *New Requirement:* Request and collect a student statement from the nominated student.

Please see the [PGF Coverletter/Checklist \(docx\)](#) for full instructions and nomination requirements. Should a student be dismissed or leave before completing the degree, the academic program must report the reason for the attrition.