

2020–21 ALBERT C. 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. **It is the program's responsibility to post the Yates fellow's tuition scholarship.**

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. At the end of the fellow's first fall and spring semester, the student must work with their "Yates mentor" to create or, in the case of spring semester, update and revise an **Individual Development Plan (IDP)** using [the Graduate School's IDP template \(docx\)](#). Programs with Yates Fellows are *required* to submit an IDP for each first year fellow in both the fall and the spring. IDPs will typically be due to the Graduate School the week after graduation for both the fall semester and spring semester. The Yates 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.

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. Recipients will be selected by a faculty committee appointed by the associate dean and the dean of the Graduate School. Please read the [application instruction document](#) carefully, as some minor changes have been made to the Yates application form in Slate.

V. AWARDS PROCESS

The stipend award letter 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). **The program is responsible for writing and issuing the tuition scholarship letter.** As of the 2018–19 academic year, the Graduate School allocates an additional GAS slot for each eligible Yates fellow to his/her home college/program. **It is the program's responsibility to post the Yates fellow's tuition scholarship.**

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