Fellowships for graduate studies

College of Engineering
Why Pursue a Graduate Fellowships?

- Fellowships are “prestigious” awards – noticed by peers and future employers
- Can increase your chance of admission
- Can increase your chance of working with professors you are most interested in
- Assembles your thoughts and documents needed for graduate applications
NSF Graduate Research Fellowship Program (GRFP) (MS or PhD)

- One of the oldest graduate fellowship programs-- covering all disciplines supported by NSF.
- Fellowships provide the student
  - **Annual** stipend of $34,000 for three years
  - **Annual** $12,000 for tuition and fees (paid to the institution)
  - Access to professional development opportunities for NSF-supported graduate students.
- Eligibility:
  - US citizens, US national, or permanent resident
  - Pursue a **research-based** M.S. or Ph.D. program in a GRFP-supported field
  - Enrolled in an eligible program at an accredited U.S. graduate institution, with a U.S. campus, by fall following selection
  - Have completed no more than one academic year of full-time graduate study (or the equivalent)
- Application Open: **deadline mid/late October**

~$150,000 award 3 years
GEM fellowship (MS and PhD)

- MS and Ph.D. Engineering/Science Fellows are possible
  - Tuition and stipend for PhD studies up to 5 yr
  - MS fellowships available
- Eligibility: under-represented groups in science and engineering as defined by the United States Bureau of Labor Statistics:
  - American Indian/Native
  - African American/Black
  - Hispanic American/Latino
- CMU CIT has the highest number of GEM fellows in participating institutions
  - If you are GEM eligible, we will help you become a GEM Fellow
- Deadline: **Nov 13**
- Link: [https://www.gemfellowship.org/students/gem-fellowship-program/](https://www.gemfellowship.org/students/gem-fellowship-program/)
National Defense Science and Engineering Graduate Fellowship (NDSEG) (PhD)

- Deadline: **Nov. 2, 2020**
- **Seniors through 2nd year PhD** eligible
- US Citizens
- $38,400 annual stipend for 3 years
- Full tuition and all mandatory fees for three years
- $5,000 travel budget over the Fellow’s tenure for professional development
- Up to $1,200 a year for health insurance.
- [https://ndseg.sysplus.com/](https://ndseg.sysplus.com/)
The Hertz Foundation Graduate Fellowship (PhD)

○ Deadline: **Oct. 23, 2020**
○ **Seniors or first year graduate students**
○ Must pursue a **PhD degree** in Applied physical and biological sciences, mathematics, or engineering
○ The fellowship includes up to five years of funding, valued at up to $250,000, and the freedom to pursue innovative projects wherever they may lead
○ [https://www.hertzfoundation.org/the-fellowship/about/](https://www.hertzfoundation.org/the-fellowship/about/)
Ford Foundation Predoctoral Fellowships for Minorities (PhD)

- Deadline: **December 17, 2020**
- The Ford Foundation seeks to **increase the diversity of the nation’s college and university faculties by increasing their ethnic and racial diversity**, to maximize the educational benefits of diversity, and to increase the number of professors who can and will use diversity as a resource for enriching the education of all students.
- These fellowships **provide three years of support** for individuals engaged in graduate study leading to a **Doctor of Philosophy** (Ph.D.) or **Doctor of Science** (Sc.D.) degree.
- [https://sites.nationalacademies.org/PGA/FordFellowships/PGA_171962](https://sites.nationalacademies.org/PGA/FordFellowships/PGA_171962)
The Paul & Daisy Soros Fellowship for New Americans

- Deadline: October 29, 2020
- This program honors the contributions of immigrants and children of immigrants to the United States.
- Open to immigrants, and first generation U.S. citizens
- Fellowship supports one to two years of graduate study in any field and in any advanced degree-granting program in the United States
- Each Fellow receives up to $90,000 in financial support over two years
- [https://pdsoros-fellowships.smapply.io/prog/2021_application/](https://pdsoros-fellowships.smapply.io/prog/2021_application/)
Graduate Fellowship for Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics Diversity (GFSD) (MS or PhD)

- Deadline: Online applications open in late August and close around Dec. 1.
- GFSD's goal is to increase the number of American citizens with graduate degrees in STEM fields, emphasizing recruitment of a diverse applicant pool.
- In general GFSD covers the following:
  - Astronomy, Chemistry, Computer Science, Geology, Materials Science, Mathematical Sciences, Physics, and their subdisciplines, and related engineering fields: Chemical, Computer, Electrical, Environmental, Mechanical.
- Provides an annual $20,000 expense allowance; total allowance funding up to $120,000.
- Carnegie Mellon is an associated university of GFSD.
  - Apply to GFSD. If awarded, notify CMU department of award. CMU covers tuition and pays full stipend.
- https://stemfellowships.org
Other fellowship programs are specific to some fields

- CyberCorps® Scholarship for Service (SFS): https://www.cmu.edu/ini/about/sfs.html
- DoD Cyber Scholarship Program (CYSP): https://public.cyber.mil/cysp/
- Facebook Fellowship Program: https://research.fb.com/fellowship/
- Link Energy Fellowship Program: https://research.fb.com/fellowship/
General advice for preparing your Fellowship applications

- Find examples of successful applications
- Read the instructions carefully, make a list of requirements, and pay attention to the timeline
- **Get feedback about your applications** before submitting them
- Carefully select reference letter writers
  - your research/thesis supervisors, internship supervisors, course instructors
  - Identify people who can highlight your achievements and potential
  - Give them plenty of time!
- Essays/Research statements/Personal statements
  - Balance between big picture and technical details; avoid jargon; make a compelling case; reviewers are not necessarily experts in your field
  - Highlight your potential and the potential of the research to have broad impacts on the field
Useful links

- NSF GRFP: [https://www.nsfgrfp.org/](https://www.nsfgrfp.org/)
- The GEM program: [https://www.gemfellowship.org/students/gem-fellowship-program/](https://www.gemfellowship.org/students/gem-fellowship-program/)
- [https://sites.google.com/site/asergrp/fellowships](https://sites.google.com/site/asergrp/fellowships)
- [https://www.cs.cmu.edu/~gradfellowships/](https://www.cs.cmu.edu/~gradfellowships/)
- [https://www.colorado.edu/graduateschool/funding/national-fellowship-opportunities](https://www.colorado.edu/graduateschool/funding/national-fellowship-opportunities)
- [https://grad.ncsu.edu/students/fellowships-and-grants/national/nationally-competitive-graduate-fellowships/](https://grad.ncsu.edu/students/fellowships-and-grants/national/nationally-competitive-graduate-fellowships/)
- [https://www.gradschools.com/financial-aid/graduate-fellowships-scholarships/fellowships-for-graduate-students](https://www.gradschools.com/financial-aid/graduate-fellowships-scholarships/fellowships-for-graduate-students)
- [https://grad.illinois.edu/sites/default/files/pdfs/grantwritingadvicefromphilipguo-nsf-ndseg-hertz.pdf](https://grad.illinois.edu/sites/default/files/pdfs/grantwritingadvicefromphilipguo-nsf-ndseg-hertz.pdf)
Questions?