

Fellowships: What Do I Need to Know?

CURF Fellowships Team:

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(Fellowships to the UK and other fellowships for graduate study)

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How can I start exploring fellowships?

Explore our Fellowships Directory

Join and read our Fellowship canvas sites – [General Fellowships](#) & [Fulbright-specific](#)

Join our [listserv](#), and follow us on **facebook** , **twitter** , & **instagram** 

CURF is here to **support you** in exploring fellowships by:

- Helping you **identify appropriate fellowship opportunities**
- Assisting you in **strengthening your candidacy**
- **Demystifying** the application process
- **Supporting you** throughout the process of applying

What are Fellowships?

Fellowship is an umbrella term that covers competitively awarded funding for a wide array of opportunities, including:

- Graduate Study
- Undergraduate Tuition
- Independent or Mentored Research
- Project Implementation
- Foreign Language Study
- Teaching English Abroad
- Unique Work/Service Opportunities
- Find opportunities on our [Fellowships Directory](#) with the “Fellowship Type” filter



The Benefits of the Process

Applying for Fellowships can provide financial and personal benefits

Applying helps applicants define and focus their interests

Academic accomplishments and personal qualities are considered

Even applicants who don't receive fellowships find applying valuable

Why apply for fellowships? (Practical)

Financial and personal benefits of applying for a fellowship:

- Potential **financial benefits** – details vary by fellowship, but the most generous opportunities cover tuition, airfare, living expenses, and travel costs
- Unique opportunity to **explore your interests and enhance your skills** before you transition into the next phase of your life
- Access to **networks of accomplished peers**
- Designation as someone who is deemed outstanding by a highly competitive review process can **open professional doors**
- **Self-discovery** that can change the course of your life

Why apply for fellowships? (Less obvious)

Applicants describe the **application process** as **extremely valuable**:

- Articulating a vision translates into **sharpening your vision** for your future
- Personal statements ask you to **clarify your purpose** and **pause to consider**:
 - *Why am I on this path?*
 - *Where is it taking me?*
 - *Why do I want to do this with my life?*
- **Deepening your relationships** with **faculty and mentors**
- **Interview experience** is always worthwhile
- Applying for fellowships **equips you for other applications**

Udall Scholarship



- Sophs & juniors working on environment, OR Native Americans working on tribal issues
- \$7,000 to support undergraduate education for 1 year (can be extended to 2 years)
- Apply by February 6 of junior year (**Priority Review: January 16 for full pre-review**)

Goldwater Scholarship



- For sophomores and juniors planning a STEM research career
- \$7,500 to support undergraduate education for 1 or 2 years
- A “pre-NSF-GRFP” application
- Apply by November 15 of your sophomore and/or junior year

Truman Scholarship



- For Juniors who are socially transformational “change agents”
- \$30,000 to support graduate education for 1 or 2 years in any academic discipline
- Apply by November 14 of junior year (**Priority Review: October 17 for full pre-review**)

Beinecke Scholarship



- For Juniors with outstanding academic credentials receiving financial aid
- \$34,000 for graduate study in the Humanities, Social Sciences, or the Arts
- Apply by December 1 of junior year (**Priority Review: October 31 for full pre-review**)

Fulbright Award



- 20-30 Penn students & alumni receive Fulbrights each year for international projects with in-country mentors
- Research projects, English teaching opportunities, and graduate degrees
- Seniors, alumni, and grad students may apply – **start exploring applying for Fall 2024 in early 2023**

National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellowship

- In a typical year, 30 – 40 Penn students and alumni receive an NSF
- Funds 3 years of graduate study in NSF fields
- Selection based on “intellectual merit” and “broader impact”
- Can help applicants gain entry to preferred STEM grad program in US
- Seniors and alumni apply in October

Churchill Scholarship



- One year Research master's degree with a STEM mentor at Cambridge
- Applicants identify, contact, and collaborate on research plan with mentor
- Seniors and recent graduates apply in early October

Marshall Scholarship



- Funds master's degree(s) or PhD at any UK university
- Academic excellence, demonstrated leadership, and ambassadorial qualities required
- Proposed course of study should use knowledge to drive positive social change
- Applicants for **Fall 2024** admission must contact CURF in **early 2023** & **apply by August 1**

Rhodes Scholarship



- Funds master's degree(s) or doctorate at the University of Oxford
- Academic excellence, demonstrated leadership, & commitment to help less fortunate
- Viable academic plan for course of study at Oxford required
- Applicants for **Fall 2024** admission must contact CURF in early 2023 & apply by **August 1**

What are My Next Steps?

- Use CURF's [Fellowships Directory](#) to identify opportunities for you
- Explore each fellowship's official websites to learn more
- Use CURF's Canvas sites to learn what you'll need to do to apply
- [Follow the advice on CURF's website](#) and [attend CURF events](#)
- Make an appointment to discuss specific awards with Dr. Estévez or Dr. Genser at <https://curf.upenn.edu/office>