



Category:  
Financial  
Student Affairs

Responsible Office:  
[Human Resources](#)

**Procedure Title:**

Graduate Diversity Fellowship Program, Guidelines for

Document Number:  
7805

Effective Date:  
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This procedure item applies to:  
State-Operated Campuses  
Statutory Colleges

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**Summary**

The State University of New York (University) offers graduate fellowships to students who have been admitted to graduate or professional study and who will contribute to the diversity of the student body in the graduate or professional program in which enrollment is sought. This program will assist the University in the recruitment, enrollment and retention of students in doctoral and master's level programs who can demonstrate that they would contribute to the diversity of the student body, especially those who can demonstrate that they have overcome a disadvantage or other impediment to success in higher education.

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**Process**

Pursuant to appropriations contained within the New York State Budget, the State University of New York (University) offers graduate fellowships to students who have been admitted to graduate or professional study and who will contribute to the diversity of the student body in the graduate or professional program in which enrollment is sought. This program will assist the University in the recruitment, enrollment and retention of students in doctoral and master's level programs who can demonstrate that they would contribute to the diversity of the student body, especially those who can demonstrate that they have overcome a disadvantage or other impediment to success in higher education. In awarding scholarships, programs may give consideration to students who are of a race or ethnicity that is underrepresented in its graduate and professional programs but may not make awards solely on that basis.

**I. Eligibility**

A. To be eligible, applicants must:

1. be U.S. citizens or have permanent resident status, and
2. demonstrate how they will contribute to the diversity of the student body in the program for which they are applying, including having overcome a disadvantage or other impediment to success in higher education. Economic disadvantage, although not a requirement, may be the basis for eligibility under this category.

Membership in a racial/ethnic group that is underrepresented in the graduate or professional program involved may serve as a plus factor in making awards, but may not form the sole basis of such an award and every student applicant shall be evaluated on his or her own merits.

**B. Priorities**

1. Step I: New graduate students who are being recruited but who have not yet accepted admission to a University graduate program. This first priority aims to recruit students who will contribute to the diversity of the student body and who otherwise would not come to the University, especially New York State residents.
2. Step II: Graduate Opportunity Waiver Program students who can be awarded a stipend to supplement their waiver to tuition.
3. Step III: Currently enrolled doctoral candidates who have completed all degree requirements but the dissertation ("ABD").
4. Step IV: Graduate Assistants and Teaching Assistants who can receive a supplement to their current stipends to enhance their retention in graduate studies.

**II. Stipend and Allowance**

The stipend amount is determined by each campus, subject to a spending plan developed by University system administration.

**III. Application and Selection Process**

- A. Requests for consideration under this program should be directed to the Graduate Dean at each University campus where admission is sought.
- B. Applicants must be nominated by their academic department.
- C. Preference will be given to applicants who have not yet enrolled in a University graduate program.
- D. Under all circumstances, the campus president or designee shall determine any final issues regarding eligibility and evaluation of applicants.

**IV. Reporting Requirements**

A report to the chancellor or designee shall be prepared by the campus president or designee, at the close of each academic year, detailing participation in the fellowship program, which reports will be compiled in order to facilitate periodic reports to the State University Board of Trustees on the program's progress toward achievement of increased diversity of the student body in the University's graduate and professional programs.

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**Forms**

There are no forms relevant to this procedure.

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**Related Procedures**

There are no related procedures relevant to this procedure.

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**Other Related Information**

There is no other information relevant to this procedure.

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## **Authority**

State University of New York Board of Trustees Resolution 06-2, adopted January 24, 2006.

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## **History**

State University of New York Board of Trustees Resolution 87-116, adopted June 24, 1987 authorized the establishment of guidelines for the State University's Underrepresented Minority Graduate Fellowship Programs.

State University of New York Board of Trustees Resolution 84-158, adopted June 27, 1984, regarding guidelines reaffirming affirmative action for minority students.

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## **Appendices**

There are no appendices relevant to this procedure.