Office of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion
GUIDELINES FOR 2014-15 GRADUATE DIVERSITY FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM

I. Introduction
The State University Board of Trustees authorized the Chancellor or designee to establish guidelines for the implementation of State University’s Diversity Fellowship Program for graduate students. For procedural questions, please contact the Office of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion at (518) 320-1189.

II. Guidelines

A. Program: Pursuant to appropriations contained within the New York State Budget, the State University of New York 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.

B. Eligibility:

1. Applicants must have earned by the time of enrollment, a baccalaureate degree granted by an accredited U.S. college or university, or an international university of recognized standing.
2. Be a U.S. citizen or have obtained permanent resident status by the time of enrollment.
3. Students must contribute to the diversity of the graduate program to which they have been admitted. Economic or other disadvantage may be a basis for assessing a student’s contribution to enhancing diversity. Membership in a racial/ethnic group that has historically been underrepresented in the graduate or professional program in which admission is sought may serve as a plus factor in making awards.

C. Priorities:

1. New graduate students who are being recruited but who have not yet accepted admission to a State 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 State University, especially New York State residents.
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2. Graduate Opportunity Waiver Program students who can be awarded a stipend to supplement their waiver to tuition.
3. Currently enrolled doctoral candidates who have completed all degree requirements but the dissertation (“ABD”).
4. Graduate Assistants and Teaching Assistants who can receive a supplement to their current stipends to enhance their retention in graduate studies.

D. Stipend and Allowance: The stipend and/or allowance amounts awarded are determined by each campus, according to a spending plan approved by the Office of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion.

E. Application and Selection Process: Requests for consideration under this program should be directed to the Graduate Dean at each State University campus where admission is sought. Applicants must be nominated by their academic department. Preference will be given to applicants who have not yet enrolled in a State University graduate program. Under all circumstances, the chief administrative officer or designee shall determine any final issues regarding eligibility and evaluation of applicants.

F. Reporting Requirements:
   1. A campus survey spreadsheet provided by ODEI shall be prepared by the campus liaison or designee and submitted via email attachment to ODEI.
   2. The information submitted should detail each fellow’s demographic characteristics along with their funding amounts, field of study, degree sought, and expected date of graduation. This data will be compiled and utilized in order to facilitate periodic reports to the State University Board of Trustees on the program’s progress toward achievements of increased diversity of the student body in SUNY’s graduate and professional programs.
   3. Given the importance of outcome measures, it is required that graduation rates for fellows be reported each year by the campus. Along with demographics, the information should detail the fellow’s degree conferred, field of study and graduation date.

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