



Graduate Studies Doctoral Fellowship for Academic and Community Engagement

Overview

The University of Denver is committed to academic excellence, rigorous scholarship, and a collaborative learning environment that prepares doctoral students to contribute to research, teaching, and society. Doctoral education is strengthened by students who bring varied experiences, intellectual perspectives, and commitments to scholarly and community engagement that enhance learning and research for all members of the university community.

Purpose

The purpose of the Graduate Studies Doctoral Fellowship for Academic and Community Engagement is to assist in the recruitment and retention of highly qualified students to doctoral programs at the University of Denver whose academic achievements, professional experiences, and engagement will strengthen the university's scholarly community and mission.

The fellowship supports students who demonstrate outstanding merit and who have shown the capacity to contribute positively to the intellectual, research, teaching, and community environment of their programs and the broader university. Such contributions may include mentorship, collaboration, service, community-engaged scholarship, or other experiences that enhance the educational environment for all students.

Award

The maximum award amount per student is \$4,500 per year and \$1,500 per quarter, spread evenly across the terms of attendance.

The award:

- should not reduce or replace existing aid;
- is merit-based;

- may be combined with other types of aid, including GTA or GRA appointments, in order to create a financial aid package that assists in recruiting and retaining outstanding students.

Total aid—including scholarships, fellowships, grants, loans, work-study, and other resources—cannot exceed the student’s cost of attendance. If the total fellowship proceeds are greater than the total account due, the student will be issued a refund for the excess amount.

Eligibility

1. Only doctoral students are eligible for these awards. Doctoral students may be domestic or international.
 2. The awarding of the Fellowship is based on merit. While graduate units may define merit consistent with disciplinary expectations, nominees must demonstrate strong academic preparation, research potential, and the capacity to contribute positively to the intellectual and scholarly environment of the program and university. Only the strongest applicants should be nominated.
 3. Students must be enrolled for at least eight quarter hour credits of coursework (i.e., not Continuous Enrollment) during each quarter in which they receive the Fellowship. If the student drops below the minimum enrollment for the quarter, the Fellowship award will be withdrawn for that quarter.
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Nomination Process

1. For each recommended student, the department must submit a nomination form and attach a one-page statement from the nominated student describing how they will contribute to the academic and community environment of their program and the University of Denver. The statement should address the following:
 - a. How will the nominee contribute to the intellectual, scholarly, or professional environment of the program;
 - b. What experiences, perspectives, research interests, or forms of engagement will the nominee bring that may enhance collaboration, mentorship, or community within the community, program, or university;
 - c. How has the nominee demonstrated leadership, service, mentorship, or community engagement in prior academic or professional settings;

2. Nominations for students who do not respond clearly to the above prompts will be considered incomplete and returned to the nominating faculty member. Faculty may revise and resubmit nominations; however, evaluation of resubmissions will be based on the date that the Office of Graduate Studies receives the complete nomination.
3. Awards will be made to excellent nominees as soon as they are received and approved.
4. Funds are limited; submitting nominations by the priority deadline stated on the nomination form is encouraged. A portion of the total Fellowship funds will be reserved for rolling admissions.
5. The Associate Provost approves or denies the award, and the Office of Graduate Studies notifies the nominating faculty member and the nominee.
6. Students with approved awards must accept the award offer in PioneerWeb.
7. Fellowship awards will be disbursed through the Office of Financial Aid.