Promising Scholar Fellowship

Application Form Overview

The Graduate School is pleased to offer the Promising Scholar Fellowship. This award is intended to support the recruitment of graduate students from historically underrepresented backgrounds who demonstrate scholarly promise at OSU. Eligible nominees must have participated in one or more scholar programs that support students from low income, first generation, and/or historically underrepresented backgrounds in their pursuit for graduate education.

This award—formerly offered as partial tuition support for former McNair Scholars - has expanded to include additional scholar programs and a 9-month fully funded fellowship with an accompanying tuition waiver.

In the online application form, be prepared to provide the following information:

1. Has the nominee been regularly admitted or recommended for graduate study through the domestic student application?
2. Will the nominee be a newly admitted full-time, graduate degree seeking student in an OSU doctoral or master's program at OSU during the 2022-2023 academic year?
3. Does the nominee have a GPA of 3.0 or above?
4. Did the nominee participate while as a student in a scholar program supporting students from low income/first generation or historically underrepresented backgrounds aimed at diversifying enrollment in graduate study, with verification confirmed by a program coordinator/director from the prior undergraduate institution? Some examples of scholarly programs include: Gates Millennium, MARC Scholars, McNair Scholars, Louis Stokes Alliances for Minority Participation [LSAMP], Ford Family Foundation Scholars, Mellon Mays Undergraduate Fellowship Program, NiH BUILD or PREP, RISE).
5. Nominee
   a. First name
   b. Last name
   c. Student ID
   d. degree type
   e. College
   f. Program
   g. OSU email
6. Nominator
   a. First name
   b. Last name
   c. OSU email
   d. Title/position at OSU
   e. Award contact first name
   f. Award contact last name
   g. Award contact email
7. A nominating letter (1 page maximum) from the unit head/chair/graduate program director describing: (a) the nominee’s eligibility for the award, with specific discussion and supporting documentation, as to which eligibility criteria the nominee meets and how; and (b) a detailed explanation as to how they envision the unit will financially support the student for the remainder of their graduate degree.
8. A statement from the nominee (1 page maximum) that speaks to the following areas:
   a. Their academic merit and intellectual vitality
b. A discussion of their skills, knowledge, and previous experiences and how those contribute/will contribute to fostering an inclusive and diverse university community

c. How this award will support them in their graduate studies

9. A nominating letter (1 page maximum) from college leadership or the nominee’s major professor, unit chair/head addressing the following:
   a. The nominee’s previous academic success, scholarly potential, and the potential to grow and succeed in graduate studies
   b. The nominee’s life experiences and background including the diversity and richness of an individual’s background and the value those bring to the academic context
   c. The nominee’s commitment, persistence, and leadership including personal resolve, dedication, and initiative

10. Copy of nominee’s résumé/CV

11. Verification from the nominee demonstrating participation while as a student in a scholar program supporting students from low income/first generation or historically underrepresented backgrounds aimed at diversifying enrollment in graduate study. Verification can include emailed confirmation by a program coordinator/director from the prior institution.

*The information on this handout is subject to change at any time. Please review the award page and nomination form for the most current award information/requirements. All nominations must be submitted electronically through Qualtrics*