



Oregon State University
Graduate School

Alternatively-Funded Graduate Fellowship Program

Graduate Fellowships at OSU are formalized appointments with [specific policies and requirements](#). Some competitive and external awards do not meet all requirements to directly qualify as a fellowship appointment through OSU. However, it is the intent of the institution to ensure that an incentive remains for graduate students to seek competitive graduate fellowship support and for graduate fellows to be recognized and honored for the distinction that they bring to themselves and to the university as a result of their success.

In 2018, OSU developed a program to appoint Alternatively-Funded Graduate Fellowships. In order to meet appointment requirements, the department of the graduate student must use internal resources to meet missing fellowship requirements.

OSU Graduate Fellowship Requirements

Graduate Fellowships are a specific appointment type at Oregon State University that meet all of the following requirements:

1. Be admitted as a graduate degree-seeking student at Oregon State University;
2. Be currently enrolled full-time at Oregon State University, completing a minimum of 9 credits per term during the academic year (12 credits if receiving tuition support from any of the Graduate School's tuition waiver support programs); 3 credits during summer session;
3. Be awarded a graduate fellowship and/or traineeship that can be independently and transparently identified;
4. Be awarded a graduate fellowship and/or traineeship with a stipend that is administered in part or in full by Oregon State University, and that throughout the fellowship award period meets or exceeds the prevailing recommended minimum rate for .49 FTE graduate appointments as established annually by the Graduate School;
5. Be awarded a graduate fellowship and/or traineeship that provides funding for the cost of the minimum required tuition enrollment (either independently or in combination with any of the Graduate School's tuition waiver support programs); and
6. Be funded by a single source of funds, and either:
 - a. Be sponsored by NSF (GRFP, GK-12, IGERT); NASA (ESSF); EPA (STAR); NIH(NRSA; NIEHS); USDA (FAS NFF); or those in partnership with the National Academies of Sciences including the Ford Foundation; or
 - b. Be sponsored, such as through the OSU Foundation or other authorized funds designated by the Provost for strategic purposes, with a fund dedicated to providing stipends to graduate fellowships.

Qualifying OSU Graduate Fellowships are eligible for resident tuition rates covered under [5] above and the Graduate Employee Health Plan.

Meeting Requirements for Non-Qualifying Fellowships

When a graduate student is supported by external funding sources that do not meet requirements [4] and [5] above, the student may still be appointed through the Alternatively-Funded Graduate Fellowship Program. In order to qualify for the program, the funding support for the student must be:

- Provided by an established award, such as a Fulbright or other “portable” fellowship; or
- Part of a formal educational experience sponsored by a U.S. government/federally funded organization such as Fulbright, NSF, NASA, EPA, NIH, USDA, Veterans Administration, or those in partnership with the National Academies of Sciences; or National Lab.

In order to satisfy fellowship appointment requirements, the department and/or college of the graduate student must provide documentation to meet [4] and [5] above:

- [4] Stipend must meet the minimum rate for a .49FTE graduate appointment established annually by the Graduate School. The portion of the stipend that is paid by the funding source program must be at least 50% of this minimum salary rate per month of a .49 FTE graduate assistantship, with the balance of the required stipend provided by other approved department resources.
- [5] Fellowship and/or traineeship provides funding for the cost of the minimum required tuition enrollment. If partial or no tuition support provided through external funding source, the balance of the required tuition support must be provided by other approved department resources.

Alternatively-Funded Graduate Fellowship Setup

Upon department/college verification of meeting OSU Graduate Fellowship Requirements, including supplementary resources, if needed, to meet fellowship requirements [4] and [5]:

- A. Submit documentation of external funding award and supplementary resources to graduate.scholarships@oregonstate.edu. The college/department must receive approval from the Graduate School prior to completing any Graduate Fellow paperwork.
- B. Upon approval, issue a [Graduate Fellow letter of offer](#).
- C. Complete the relevant sections of the [Graduate Fellowship Appointment form](#). Instructions for completion available [here](#).
- D. Route fellowship appointment form, along with letter of offer, external award funding and supplementary resources, as specified on the fellowship appointment form.
- E. Upon setup within your department/college business center, verify funding allocations, if applicable, within OSU Scholarship Management System (GRRS), stipends payment, tuition support, etc.