



Fellowships 101

Scholar Development and Fellowships Advising

Tuttleman 201

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Scholar Development and Fellowships Advising: What Do We Do?

- Guidance to help students identify and apply for competitive, merit-based awards
- Support in developing application materials, especially personal statements and other essays
- Individual advising sessions
- Workshops
- Resources for students seeking other merit-based award opportunities
- Fellowships e-newsletter

Why Apply for Fellowships?

(Hint: It's not about the money)

- “It's given me content and ideas which I've drawn on in other applications. I learned how to briefly articulate my accomplishments, skills, and personality in a way that is approachable. I imagine this will be a skill I will draw on long after my Fulbright.”
- “They say your interests do not mean anything if you cannot communicate them effectively. Writing application essays is essentially a way to practice this skill. It is especially helpful for future interviews because the questions are often similar.”
- “Fellowship writing is a different type of writing that I wasn't used to before applying for the Fulbright and Marshall. More than anything, I've learned about conciseness and precision while writing. This is highly transferable to other disciplines, academic and non-academic.”
- “I am so thankful for this process because it allowed me to refine my goals for the future. I critically examined my passions and future plans, and repeatedly asked myself why I wanted to pursue certain paths over others. This process helped me self-reflect and taught me more about myself and my abilities than I could have imagined.”
- “Formulating an answer to the question, “what do you want to do in the future?” or “what have you done to prepare you for your future?” forces you to really reflect and understand what has led you to this point. Regardless of the outcome, I gained confidence in knowing that I could make a decision even if it would change in the future.”

Competitive, Merit-Based Awards Requiring Institutional Nomination

These are the major scholarships that Fellowships Advising coordinates. Rather than applying directly to the external organization, students must first go through an internal screening process before being nominated.

Check the [External Scholarships and Fellowships](#) page for fellowships descriptions and an explanation of the campus nomination process. You'll also find lists broken down by field, interests, or career path. Be aware that **deadlines are often a year in advance** of the funded period!

- [Boren](#)
- [Carnegie/Gaither](#)
- [Fulbright](#)
- [Goldwater](#)
- [Knight-Hennessy](#)
- [Marshall](#)
- [Mitchell](#)
- [Rhodes](#)
- [Schwarzman](#)
- [St. Andrew's](#)
- [Truman](#)
- [Udall](#)

Highlighted Awards for Sophs and Juniors

[Udall Scholarship](#) (campus deadline January 20)

- For undergraduates pursuing a career related to the environment or Native American policy
- Sophomores or juniors, any discipline
- Record of service and leadership related to the environment or Native American issues
- Up to \$7,000

[Goldwater Scholarship](#) (campus deadline November 15)

- For undergraduates pursuing a career in STEM research
- Sophomores or juniors in STEM
- GPA 3.8 or above; past/current research experience expected
- Up to \$7,500 annually

[Truman Scholarship](#) (campus deadline November 15)

- For juniors planning a career in public service; “change agent”
- Record of public service and leadership expected
- Up to \$30,000 toward a master’s degree

Highlighted Awards for Sophs and Juniors

- **Boren Scholarship** (campus deadline January 20)
 - For the intensive study of a critical language and culture abroad (the longer, the more competitive you will be)
 - Ideal for students who intend a career in federal service, ideally national security (service requirement)
 - Special STEM initiative for summer study
 - Up to \$25,000 for an academic year
- **St. Andrew's Society Scholarship** (campus deadline February 1)
 - \$25,000 to study for an academic year at one of four Scottish universities
 - Apply as a sophomore
 - Must be in top 25% of your class (our recipients tend to have over a 3.6)

Highlighted Awards for Sophs and Juniors

- [Public Policy and International Affairs Junior Summer Institute](#) (Deadline: Early November)
 - Intensive 7-week summer program that focuses on policy
 - Apply as a junior; preference given to underrepresented populations and those with financial need
 - Provides an additional \$5000 *minimum* for a grad program within the PPIA consortium of 30 universities
- [Fulbright UK Summer Institute](#) (Deadline: Early February)
 - 3-4 week summer study at selected UK universities
 - Apply as a freshman or sophomore
 - Minimum 3.7 GPA required

Highlighted Awards for Seniors and Recent Grads

Fulbright (Campus deadlines typically in August and September)

- A year abroad post-undergraduate to carry out independent research/creative projects, study at the graduate level, or teach English
- Apply as a senior, recent grad, or graduate student

Rhodes, Marshall, Mitchell, Gates (Campus deadline May 15)

- Funds a graduate degree at different universities in the UK/Ireland
- Evidence of outstanding academic performance and significant leadership/service in any field
- Apply as a senior or recent grad

NSF GRFP (Deadlines typically in mid- to late October)

- funding for research-based MA or PhD in STEM field
- apply at the point of application to grad school OR as a first or second year grad student
- \$44,000/year for up to 3 years

Highlighted Award for Any Level

Critical Language Scholarship (Deadline typically in November)

- Intensive study of a critical language for 10 weeks abroad during the summer
- Apply as an undergraduate or as a grad student

There are many other nationally competitive awards, so check out our different lists on the External Scholarships and Fellowships pages for [Undergraduates](#) or for [Graduate Students](#)

What Are They Looking For?

- Academic Excellence
- Leadership
- Communication Skills
- Fit

Criteria vary from one fellowship to another. What follows are general criteria for the most competitive opportunities

Basic Criteria for Competitive Scholarships and Fellowships

1. Academic excellence

- All competitive fellowships are looking for students who have done well in the classroom. Besides GPA, they are looking for passion and dedication to a field/discipline as well as intellectual curiosity.
- **How do you think applicants could show their academic excellence beyond their GPA? What sorts of activities or experiences might help?**

How to Develop your Academic Excellence

- Seek out opportunities to conduct research, particularly independent research, like:
 - [Diamond Research Scholars Program](#)
 - [Creative Arts, Research, and Scholarship \(CARAS\) Program](#)
 - [Leadership Alliance](#)
 - [NSF Research Experience for Undergraduates](#) (REU)
- Seek out experience to teach or tutor, like:
 - [Diamond Peer Teacher Program](#)
 - [Student Success Center](#) (Writing Tutors, Conversation Partners, etc)
 - [Nationalities Service Center](#)
 - [Welcoming Center for New Pennsylvanians](#)
 - [Garces Foundation](#) (English for Everyday Living)

Basic Criteria for Competitive Scholarships and Fellowships

2. Leadership: Have you delivered results from a position of leadership - whether by organizing, mobilizing or inspiring others? Is there evidence that you initiated something and carried it through to an outcome? Are you likely to attain a position of influence in your field of expertise?

How to Develop your Leadership Experience

- It's not about being president of the student government or head of a student organization. It's much more about the outcomes.
 - *Initiate, implement, influence, inform.* Show that you have “*brought others along*” with you to make a change or improve something.
- Focus on depth over breadth.
- Note sure where to start? Focus on activities that are related to what you ultimately want to do in your life.
 - **Not sure what you want to do in your life? Then focus on what really interests you now and in the near future.**
- Identify a gap in your department, on campus, or in your community. Then fill it! And keep it going.

Basic Criteria for Competitive Scholarships and Fellowships

3. **Communication:** Excellent written and oral communication skills

Why are communication skills needed? Because all applications are written, and many fellowships include a campus and/or national interview.

- **What sorts of activities or experiences might help to develop your communication skills?**

How to Develop your Communication Skills

- Seek and accept all opportunities to present...on any topic, to any audience
 - [The Symposium \(formerly TURF-CreWS\)](#)
 - [Global Temple Conference](#)
 - Informal presentations
- Seek opportunities to teach or tutor
- Publish your research in [Maneto](#), Temple's open-access undergraduate research journal
- Write a regular column for Temple News; maintain a (professional) blog; contribute to your department's newsletter
- Follow the news; talk about the news; have an opinion and practice defending it

Basic Criteria for Competitive Scholarships and Fellowships

4. Fit: Most funding organizations have a stated mission or goal for the fellowship. Your candidacy is as much about your record as it is about the “fit” (how well your goals and trajectory align with the organization’s).

- For example, the Goldwater scholarship is looking for students who intend to pursue careers in STEM research. If your goal is to become a physician, you can’t pretend to want a career in research. This wouldn’t be a good fit.

Support in Developing Application Materials: Personal Statements and Other Essays

- Remember: National scholarship deadlines are often a year (sometimes more) in advance of the funded period. Start early.
- Expect that a well-crafted application essay or personal statement will take many drafts:
 - Start at least two months before the internal or external deadline
 - Seek feedback from the Writing Center, faculty and Fellowships Advising
- Personal statements and essays are not cover letters or research papers. This is where you, among other things:
 - Get to tell your own story
 - Control how people see your accomplishments
 - Express your passions
 - Show the obstacles you've overcome
 - Demonstrate the scope of your ambitions
 - Explain your project or research idea

Letters of Reference

- Most competitive scholarships and fellowships require a minimum of three letters, and some, up to seven or eight. These letters should be detailed, which means the letter writers must know you well.
- **What can you do between now and your senior year to ensure you have at least four strong references?**

Advice from Temple's First Rhodes Scholar, Hazim Hardeman

- [Click to see portion of interview with Hazim Hardeman \(Klein '17\)](#)

Want to See What Else Is Out There?

As a resource, Fellowships Advising maintains lists of Temple and non-Temple opportunities.



Temple Undergraduate Scholarships

- **College-specific endowed scholarships**
 - Your school at Temple may offer awards. Check out the opportunities [here](#).
- **University-wide Awards**
 - [Supplemental Academic Scholarships](#)
 - Includes new Smith Future Scholars program, for first and second-year undergrads from the Philly 5-county area, plus Camden, who have a GPA of 3.5+ and who receive financial aid.
 - [Diamond Awards](#)
 - [MarcDavid LGBT Scholarship](#)
 - [Dean of Students Endowed Awards](#)

Research, Teaching, Study Abroad Opportunities

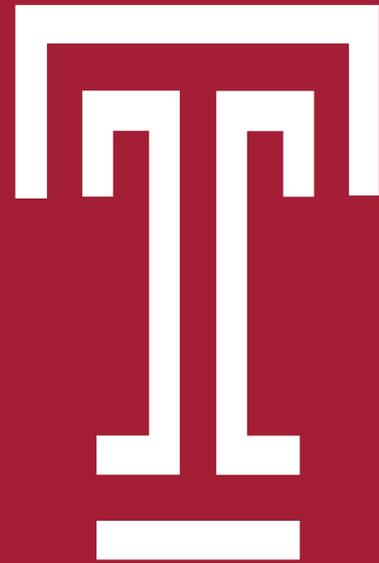
- Check out our list of [Research and Teaching Experiences](#)
- Planning to study abroad? Besides the Boren, CLS, and Fulbright UK Summer Institute, take a look at our list of [national scholarships for study abroad](#)

International Students

- Most federal funding (Fulbright, NSF, NIH, etc.) will require US citizenship
- Most Temple opportunities will not require US citizenship
- Private companies and professional associations are the most likely source of funding without citizenship restrictions
- Be sure to search using [Pivot](#) and [Spin](#)
- Check with local cultural associations
- Check with your country's embassy
- Look at the [IEFA](#) or [Scholarships.com](#) websites

Questions? Follow-up?

- **General questions**
 - feladv@temple.edu or barbara.gorka@temple.edu
 - 215-204-0708
- **One-on-one Advising** (for specific scholarships and personal statement review)
 - Can be scheduled through [Handshake](#)
- [Fellowships e-newsletter](#)
- [LinkedIn Fellowships Advising Group](#)
- [Fellowships Advising on Twitter](#)
- [Fellowships Advising on Instagram](#)



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