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 and walk-in hours
- Workshops
- Resources for students seeking other merit-based award opportunities
- Fellowships Blackboard site
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**
A Few Highlighted Awards

**Udall Scholarship**
- for undergraduates pursuing a career related to the environment or Native American policy
- sophomores or juniors, any discipline
- Up to $7,000

**Goldwater Scholarship**
- for undergraduates pursuing a career in STEM research
- sophomores or juniors in STEM
- up to $7,500 annually

**Truman Scholarship**
- for juniors planning a career in public service; “change agent”
- up to $30,000 toward an MA

**Fulbright**
- a year abroad after graduation 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**
- evidence of outstanding academic performance and significant leadership in any field
- seniors and recent grads
- funds a graduate degree at different universities in the UK/Ireland

**NSF GRFP**
- funding for research-based MA or PhD
- 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
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
  • Nationalities Service Center
  • Welcoming Center for New Pennsylvanians
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 do you think applicants could show their leadership? What sorts of activities or experiences might help?
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.
• Focus on depth over breadth.
• Not 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

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
  o TURF-CreWS
  o Global Temple Conference
  o 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).

- Examples of the Boren and Goldwater
Support in Developing Application Materials: Personal Statements and Other Essays

- 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, friends, 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
– Memorial Awards
– MarcDavid LGBT Scholarship
– Disability Resources Services
Other Research and Teaching Opportunities

Check out our list of Research and Teaching Experiences
Other Awards

- **Fellowships Blackboard** site for external awards broken down by discipline (soon to be converted to Canvas)

- **Fellowships Advising website**: lists of external and internal awards

- **Scholarship Databases (for all disciplines)**
  - Pivot
  - Spin
  - Philadelphia Foundation
Advocacy Organizations

Here are some examples. Be sure to look for associations that advocate for populations you identify as a member of.

- Hispanic College Fund
- United Negro College Fund
- Ford Foundation
- Human Rights Campaign LGBT Scholarship Database
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 (Director: Barbara Gorka)

• One-on-one Advising (for specific scholarships and personal statement review)
  – Can be scheduled online

• Fellowships Blackboard site
• LinkedIn Fellowships Advising Group
• Fellowships Advising on Twitter