



# INDIANA UNIVERSITY

THE UNIVERSITY GRADUATE SCHOOL

IUPUI Graduate Office

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## **The 2021-2022 President's Diversity Dissertation Fellowship**

Competition is OPEN and applications are being accepted.

Application deadline: April 16, 2021

### Purpose and Eligibility for the President's Diversity Dissertation Fellowship

The President's Diversity Dissertation Fellowship was established in 2014 to provide one year of support to advanced doctoral students who are completing Ph.D. dissertations. These are one time fellowships meant to offset a scholar's living expenses while completing the dissertation. This competition is specifically aimed at graduate students who are underrepresented minorities (URMs) in their field. The URM designation applies to racial, ethnic, gender and disability classification. Graduate students in the natural, physical and life sciences, engineering, technology, and mathematics, are especially encouraged to apply. In order to apply for this award, IU program applicants must have been admitted to candidacy and receive Graduate School recorder approval at least one month prior to the application deadline. Purdue program applicants must have been admitted to candidacy and have a submitted and approved Purdue Form 10, Report of the Preliminary Examination.

Dissertation fellowships will be awarded in a university-wide competition administered by core campus committees to individuals who have demonstrated academic achievement and show promise of future achievement as scholars, teachers, researchers or professionals. Preference will be given to applicants who demonstrate a strong likelihood of filing the thesis at the end of the fellowship period. President's Diversity Dissertation Fellowship recipients will receive a full stipend and health insurance for one year as they work toward completing the PhD degree.

### **Stipend and Benefits:**

1. One-year stipend: \$20,000 (non-STE/IM) - \$25,000 (STE/IM) disciplines.
2. Student health insurance for fellowship recipients
3. Opportunity to participate in workshops from the Graduate Mentorship Center and the IUPUI Preparing Future Faculty and Professionals program. Possibility for expenses to be paid to attend the Teaching and Mentoring Conference by the Southern Regional Board's Compact for Faculty Development; and, the possibility for expenses to participate in

one of the semester-long activities sponsored by the National Center for Faculty Development & Diversity.

**The University Graduate School can support a total of 12 students across the two core campuses (IU and IUPUI) each academic year.**

**Eligibility for the President's Diversity Dissertation Fellowship is limited to:**

1. Doctoral candidates in Ph.D. programs at Indiana University Bloomington and Indiana University-Purdue University Indianapolis.
2. Citizens, nationals, and permanent residents (holders of a Permanent Resident Card) of the U.S.A.
3. Individuals belonging to one or more of the following classes:
  - a. Must be an underrepresented minority, URM, in their particular discipline. The term URM includes DOMESTIC African Americans, American Indians, Alaska Natives, Asian Americans, Hispanic Americans, or Pacific Islanders/Native Hawaiians.
  - b. Person with disabilities. Under ADA, an individual is considered to have a disability if he or she has a physical or mental impairment that substantially limits one or more of his or her major life activities and has a record of such impairment.
  - c. A gender minority (< 30% of the current graduate population in the department).
  - d. A first generation college student (a student whose legal custodian(s) did not complete a four- year college degree).
4. Individuals who have not received a dissertation fellowship.

**Selection criteria will include the following:**

1. Degree of promise of completing the Ph.D. dissertation
2. Type and amount of funding received prior to the application of the President's Diversity Dissertation Fellowship

**Nomination process:**

Students must be nominated by their department/school. In nominating the student, the department must submit a completed application verifying that the student has completed all requirements for their Ph.D. except for submission of the dissertation in their graduate program and has been admitted to candidacy. Purdue students must have a submitted and approved Purdue Form 10. In nominating the student, the department also agrees to ensure that recipients do not accept other graduate awards or employment during the period of funding (fall and spring semesters), and will submit a final report on behalf of the student.

A completed application, submitted as one PDF document via MachForms includes:

1. FROM DEPARTMENT
  - a. President's Diversity Dissertation Fellowship Nomination Form found at <http://go.iu.edu/250q> identifying one or more of the diversity classes of the award; and confirmation of successful defense of the dissertation proposal, including the month and year of defense stated clearly; and, types of funding student has received to date as a doctoral student.

- b. Cover letter by Department chair. The letter should be no more than one page in length.
  - c. Letter of support from dissertation chair or doctoral advisor. The letter should be no more than two pages in length.
2. FROM STUDENT
- a. Curriculum Vitae
  - b. Unofficial transcript
  - c. Work-plan/timetable for completion of the doctoral degree and, rationale why this fellowship year is needed.
  - d. Dissertation summary, not to exceed six pages, that includes:
    - 1) Objectives/Approach/Purpose
    - 2) Limitations of Study
    - 3) Significant Findings

IUPUI nominations: To submit the nomination, units will complete an online cover page, <http://go.iu.edu/250q> for each applicant, and upload the appropriately-named PDF to the online cover page form no later than **5 p.m. (Eastern time) on April 16, 2021**. To assure review of the nomination the department/unit must use this file name format: Lastnameof nominee-Dept-PresDivDissertation.pdf.

**Please note:** If you do not upload the file as instructed, it will be deleted and you will be asked to resubmit.

## **PRESIDENT'S DIVERSITY DISSERTATION FELLOWSHIP**

### **QUESTIONS & ANSWERS**

#### **Award Length**

The President's Diversity Dissertation Fellowship will begin no earlier than July 1; and, end no later than June 30.

#### **Evaluation and Selection of Fellows**

Applications from each campus (IUB and IUPUI) will be evaluated by fellowship committees on each campus. The committees will use the cover letter, letter of support, academic records, the proposed timetable, plan for completion of the doctoral degree, and student summary as the basis for determining the extent to which candidates meet the eligibility requirements and the selection criteria.

#### **Conditions of the Fellowship**

President's Diversity Dissertation Fellowship awardees are expected to be engaged in a full-time program leading to a Ph.D. in an eligible field of study. Those who accept the President's Diversity Dissertation Fellowship must agree to the stipulations in the Terms of Appointment that accompanies the award letter. The University Graduate School may request feedback on the efficacy of the award during the year.

#### **Where are the nomination forms located?**

President's Diversity Dissertation Fellowship Nomination Form can be found at <http://go.iu.edu/250q>

#### **How many fellowships will be awarded?**

The University Graduate School will award twelve fellowships in 2021-22 across the two core campuses (IUB and IUPUI).

#### **Is a student eligible if they are a doctoral candidate in a degree other than the Ph.D.?**

Yes, nominations are also open to Ph.D. candidates earning a dual degree (e.g. M.D./Ph.D., J.D./Ph.D., etc.) who are underrepresented (< 30%) or minority students in their IU or Purdue degree program. Please see the 2021-2022 President's Diversity Dissertation Fellowship Guidelines and the application introduction for more information on the criteria used in determining eligibility.

#### **What is the nomination deadline?**

The application deadline is **April 16, 2021** (5 p.m. Eastern Time) and must be submitted to the respective University Graduate School office on the applicant's campus through the following link <http://go.iu.edu/250q>

**How would you like me to submit my official graduate transcript?**

Scanned copies of the student's unofficial IU transcript are allowable.

**Will additional documents, such as letters of recommendation or appendices be accepted?**

Please limit application to the documents that comprise the application. We will not be able to accept additional documents.

**How will I be notified?**

Recipients of the President's Diversity Dissertation Fellowship will be notified directly by the University Graduate School via email. Those who are not awarded Fellowships will receive an email from the University Graduate School.

**I am not eligible this year due to the timing of my proposal defense. Could I be nominated next year?**

Yes. The University Graduate School will continue to offer the President's Diversity Dissertation Fellowship. We also plan to maintain an annual schedule of announcing in the fall with applications due in April.

**Will the University Graduate School give feedback if my nomination is not chosen?**

No. The University Graduate School will not comment on nominations after making award decisions. All applications and supporting materials become the property of the University Graduate School and, as such, will not be returned.

**Must I be a US citizen to be considered?**

No. U.S. Citizens, nationals, and permanent residents (holders of a Permanent Resident Card) of the U.S.A. are encouraged to apply.

**Am I eligible to be nominated if I will receive funding from another source? Can I accept other awards?**

No. You may not receive awards that carry stipends in addition to the President's Diversity Dissertation Fellowship. Non-stipend awards to support student travel or research are allowed.

**How are the fellowship funds paid?**

President's Diversity Dissertation Fellowship is disbursed equally between enrolled terms and disbursed directly into the recipient's student's financial/bursar account. Once the fellowship money is applied to the institutional costs (tuition, fee, et cetera), remaining funds (stipend, travel) are disbursed to the student.

**Can the recipient work while using the President’s Diversity Dissertation Fellowship?**

The President’s Diversity Dissertation Fellowship is meant to help cover the educational costs and modest living expenses a recipient incurs while completing his or her dissertation. With this in mind, Fellows may not hold outside employment during the semesters when award funding is distributed (fall 2021 and spring 2022).

**Will the University Graduate School provide 1099 forms?**

No. President’s Diversity Dissertation Fellowship will be paid to directly to the student and, therefore, 1099 forms are not needed. Ascertaining tax liability and reporting the applicable portion, if any, to the US Internal Revenue Service is the sole responsibility of the Fellow.

**What if I cannot participate in the required mentoring and professional activities?**

Mentoring and professional developmental activities are optional benefits to receiving the President’s Diversity Dissertation Fellowship.

**Who is The University Graduate School contact, if I still have questions?**

Please call Monica Henry at (317) 278-2071 or by email at [mlhenry@iupui.edu](mailto:mlhenry@iupui.edu) on the Indianapolis campus.