

## 2025-2026 Dissertation Fellowship (Round 1) Call for Applications

### Submission Deadline

*Friday, May 16, 2025, at 5pm CDT*

### PURPOSE

The Graduate and Professional School (Grad School) offers Dissertation Fellowships to current doctoral students in the dissertation phase of their degree program. Dissertation Fellowships are intended to support advanced doctoral students in the final analysis of their research topic and the final writing of the dissertation. For the 2025-2026 academic year, the Grad School will offer 10 fellowships in the fall and 5 in the spring to students who will graduate by August 2026 and December 2026, respectively. *This fellowship is NOT intended to finance data collection or the completion of doctoral coursework. Priority will be given to doctoral students whose primary financial support for 2025-2026 is NOT related to their research (e.g., GANT, GAL, GAT, Self-funded). Students who have funding related to their dissertation research or who anticipate graduating by December 2025 will be least likely to receive this fellowship.*

### ELIGIBILITY

U.S. residents, U.S. Permanent residents, [eligible noncitizens](#), and international doctoral students are eligible to apply for this fellowship. Applicants must also meet the following criteria:

- Admitted to candidacy by May 16, 2025. To be admitted to candidacy for a doctoral degree, a student must have:
  - (1) *Completed all formal coursework on the degree plan with the exception of any remaining 681, 684, 690, and 691 credit hours.*
  - (2) *Demonstrated a 3.0 Graduate GPA and a Degree Plan GPA of at least 3.0, with no grade lower than C in any course on the degree plan.*
  - (3) *Passed the preliminary examination (written and oral portions).*
  - (4) *Submitted an approved dissertation proposal.*
  - (5) *Met the degree residency requirements (see [Graduate Catalog](#)).*

**The Dissertation Fellowship is only available to doctoral students who have been officially admitted to candidacy by May 16, 2025, including the completion of all necessary approvals and processing. Any student who has not reached this status by the deadline will not be considered. While we understand that some applicants may meet doctoral degree candidacy requirements, only those whose doctoral degree evaluation reflects [degree candidacy](#) will be eligible. There will be no exceptions.**

- Submit, in writing, intent to apply for the Dissertation Fellowship to departmental/program faculty and staff graduate advisors. The intent to apply notification is not included in the application, but it is a formality that must be completed **before** you apply.

In addition to meeting the stated criteria of eligibility, Dissertation Fellowship applicants must be doctoral students currently enrolled in the following eligible college/school or interdisciplinary degree program:

- **Colleges/Schools**
  - Agriculture and Life Sciences
  - Architecture
  - Arts and Sciences
  - Bush School of Government and Public Service
  - Dentistry (*PhD in Oral and Craniofacial Biomedical Sciences*)
  - Education and Human Development
  - Engineering
  - Mays Business School

- Medicine (*PhD in Medical Sciences*)
- Performance, Visualization and Fine Arts
- Pharmacy (*PhD in Pharmaceutical Sciences*)
- Public Health (*PhD in Health Education*)
- Veterinary Medicine and Biomedical Sciences
- **Interdisciplinary Degree Programs**
  - Agribusiness and Managerial Economics
  - Ecology and Evolutionary Biology
  - Genetics and Genomics
  - Molecular and Environmental Plant Sciences
  - Neuroscience
  - Toxicology
  - Water Management and Hydrological Science

### **FUNDING DETAILS AND BENEFITS**

The Dissertation Fellowship award period is from September 1, 2025, through August 31, 2026. The fellowship provides a \$2000 monthly stipend for up to 12 months (or graduation, depending on which occurs first) for eligible doctoral students. [Disbursement dates](#) are determined by Scholarships and Financial Aid, with the first stipend payment set to disburse August 2025. The fellowship also includes payment for tuition and required university and college fees **for 1 credit hour per semester or the minimum number of required credit hours for the fellowship recipient**. The minimum required hours may vary based on immigration status or federal loan deferral requirements. If a fellowship recipient must register for more than 1 credit hour for loan deferral or immigration, a request **must be** submitted to the Grad School for approval. Federal student loans require at least half-time enrollment to extend the grace period or defer student loan repayment. One hour of registration is not considered half time by the loan holder in most cases (even though the university may consider this half time). Thus, either the grace period may end, or the repayment period may begin earlier than anticipated. **In addition, fellows must not be registered In Absentia for fall 2025, spring 2026, and summer 2026 semesters.** Per the [Graduate Catalog](#), “a student holding a fellowship or assistantship may not register In Absentia.”

During the 12-month fellowship period, Dissertation Fellows are eligible to participate in Texas A&M University System insurance programs. The Grad School will reimburse awardees participating in a Texas A&M University System (TAMUS) insurance program for medical insurance at an amount equivalent to the cost of the employer contribution for the same premium category on the A&M Grad Plan. For fellows participating in a non-TAMUS insurance program, the Grad School will reimburse the cost of medical insurance at an amount up to the cost of the employer contribution for the employee only premium category on the A&M Grad Plan. *Note: Dental and vision premiums are not reimbursable.*

### **RESTRICTIONS**

Dissertation Fellows **may not** accept any additional funding (e.g., assistantships, fellowships, internships, employment, etc.) during the fellowship tenure of September 1, 2025, through August 31, 2026. Those employed may continue to work until August 31, 2025. Departments may choose to supplement stipend funds to match those received by other graduate students in the department. For example, if the current departmental graduate assistantship monthly stipend rate is \$2250, a department may supplement the additional monthly cost of \$250 to match the rate of other graduate students in the department. If awarded, the Dissertation Fellowship cannot be deferred. Students who are unable to accept the award may re-apply in the next competition cycle. Previous recipients who have received funding from this fellowship are **not eligible to apply again**.

## EXPECTATIONS AND REQUIREMENTS

Dissertation Fellowship recipients are required to attend a *Dissertation/Thesis Writing Retreat* in early-August 2025 (dates TBD). This intensive writing workshop, led by the University Writing Center, will support you in navigating the challenging stages of dissertation writing and advancing towards its completion. Additionally, Dissertation Fellows must submit a report at the end of *each semester* (fall 2025, spring 2026, and summer 2026) detailing their progress and successful completion of the outlined milestones. **Furthermore, faculty advisors associated with awardees will be required to review Dissertation Fellowship applications in future rounds.** The Grad School will contact reviewers after each application deadline to support with the review process.

## APPLICATION MATERIALS

- Number of scholarly works produced *while a doctoral student at Texas A&M*, including the following: published articles or reviews, book chapters, conference papers and conference poster or oral presentations. Scholarly works produced during previous degrees will not be considered.
- Sources of financial support during the previous two years and the current semester.
- Abstract. Provides a complete, succinct snapshot of the research. Abstracts should address purpose, method, results, and conclusions, ideally within 350 words. Abstracts that exceed two pages will not be accepted.
- One-page research impact statement (*a statement speaking to the impact of the scholarly work in discipline and/or on the community, state, nation or global society written in non-technical, lay language*). Any citations must be included within the one-page limit.
- One-page work plan for completing the remaining degree requirements (including defense, final revisions of dissertation and approval by committee and the Grad School, and graduation) in the 12-month time frame. This should be *detailed* and *realistic*.
- Curriculum Vitae (up to 5 pages): be sure that full citations are provided for all publications, conference papers and conference presentations.
- Copy of degree evaluation confirming candidacy ([click here for directions on how to run a degree evaluation](#)).
- Completed and signed Faculty Advisor Response Form from the student's committee chair ([click here for form](#)). This form will be uploaded with the student's application.

**Applications that fail to adhere to all components of the application procedures (e.g., page limits) will not be considered.**

## EVALUATION CRITERIA

Reviewers will consider the following:

- Content and quality of the abstract (refer to the [Thesis & Dissertation Manual](#) as needed).
- Work plan for completing the remaining degree requirements within a 12-month time frame.
- Academic performance and productivity while at Texas A&M University.
- Potential impact of student's research and scholarly work in discipline and/or society.
- Financial need, especially for those students whose primary support is not related to their dissertation research.

## TIMELINE

- **April 18, 2025:** The application link will be available on the [Dissertation Fellowship website](#).
- **May 16, 2025, 5pm CDT:** Submission deadline for the Dissertation Fellowship.
  - All application materials must be submitted online through the InfoReady submission portal. *There will be NO exceptions to this date or time.*
- **Late-June/Early-July 2025:** Award notifications will be communicated via e-mail to both selected and non-selected students.

**Questions about this fellowship should be directed to:** [grad-award-admin@tamu.edu](mailto:grad-award-admin@tamu.edu)