

**Florida International University
University Graduate School**

Guidelines for Presidential Fellowships

Presidential Fellowships are intended to recruit exceptional graduate students to enroll full time in a doctoral degree program at Florida International University. UGS will consider two rounds of nominations. The same application form is used for both the Presidential Fellowship and the Presidential Enhanced Assistantships.

A recipient of a Presidential Fellowship receives a stipend of \$25,000 per twelve months for three years, provided that the student makes excellent progress in his/her degree program. The UGS will provide a tuition fee waiver for 24 credits for all 3 years of the fellowship. The University Graduate School (UGS) will provide 2/3 of the stipend and the unit will provide 1/3 of the stipend for the 3-year fellowship according to a schedule that has been determined by the program to be in the best interest of the student. The two schedule options are:

1. UGS provides 50% of funding for two years and full funding for 1 year. With this scheme the unit must provide a 10 hour GA contract (0.25 FTE) for the student during the two years (fall, spring summer) that UGS provides 50% funding (note: this option is preferred by the UGS to promote the integration of doctoral students into departmental graduate culture); or
2. UGS provides full funding for any two of the three years and the unit provides a 20 hour GA contract (0.5 FTE) for the third year.

For the portion of the stipend provided by the University Graduate School, there are no obligations on the part of the recipient other than to make excellent progress in his or her degree program. For the portion of the stipend provided by the unit (i.e., RA or TA) this student is expected to have responsibilities consistent with other students in the program, e.g., teaching a course or working on a sponsored research project. For budgeting purposes, the funding schedule must be selected by the program at the time of the fellowship application.

Tuition for Presidential Fellows is paid by the University Graduate School [approximately \$6,145.00 (Florida residents) and \$17,667.00 (non-residents) for 24 semester hours]. Students awarded Presidential Fellowships are expected to be strong competitors for Dissertation Year Fellowships in their fourth year. Thus strong applicants should be confident of receiving four years of support.

Requirements:

Entering graduate students receiving a Presidential Award must have either:

- 1) GRE scores (Verbal plus Quantitative) of at least 1300 or GMAT Composite scores of at least 640; or
- 2) GRE scores at least 300 points or GMAT composite scores at least 140 points above a three-year running average of scores of entering doctoral students awarded Graduate Assistantships.

Because this program is designed to attract extremely well qualified students to FIU, students already enrolled are ineligible. If an outstanding FIU student has a bona fide offer from another graduate school, the Presidential Enhanced Assistantship can be used in developing a counter offer. In this situation, the nomination may be evaluated outside of the established deadline schedule.

Expectations:

Mean time to receipt of degree will decrease by at least one semester for Presidential Award recipients compared to the departmental three year average for students supported on a normal assistantship.

Presidential Awardees will have submitted at least one first-authored manuscript to a national peer-reviewed journal prior to graduation.

Nomination Procedure:

Nominations are made by the unit (department or school). A unit may submit no more than six nominations (total of 1st and 2nd round). The units *must* rank nominations and state whether the first choice is a Presidential Fellowship or an Enhanced Assistantship. A nomination form is attached.

For Presidential Fellowships, the unit must commit to the GA appointment equivalent to .50 FTE for one year at a minimum of \$25,000. Unit commitments of research and travel funds for the recipient will be considered by the evaluation committee.

Conditions:

Presidential Award recipients will be subject to an annual review of academic and scholarly progress. The unit must forward the annual review to the University Graduate School for review prior to renewal of the award. The recipient must enroll full time (9 credits in fall, 9 credits in spring, and 6 credits in summer) in the graduate program.

Submission Procedure:

1st Round Nominations are due at UGS February 12, 2009

This first round of awards will serve:

1. highly-qualified prospective students who completed their admission application very early in the admission cycle; and
2. applicants in disciplines where it is the norm for financial aid packages to be awarded in Jan-Feb.

This early deadline has been chosen to be competitive with equivalent fellowships offered by our benchmark universities and other universities in Florida.

2nd Round Nominations are due at UGS April 2, 2009

This second round of awards will serve:

1. highly-qualified prospective students with admission applications that were completed after the first round of nominations were considered;
2. applicants who are in disciplines where it is the norm for financial aid packages to be awarded in the spring; and
3. nominees who were not awarded fellowships in the first round but whose application has been subsequently strengthened in some way.

This second round of nominations will also allow UGS to re-allocate scholarships that have been declined by 1st round awardees thereby maximizing the utilization of these resources.

- Complete nomination form and required supporting documentation.
- Submit one original and six complete double-sided copies of each nomination.
- Units should expect to be informed of the decisions of the evaluation committee within 20 days after the submission deadline.

Please *rank* all nominees submitted.