



## Presidential Fellowship Guidelines – Fall 2026

The purpose of the Presidential Fellowship is to attract top-quality graduate students into doctoral degree programs at Florida International University. Students are awarded these Fellowships based on their potential to become outstanding scholars and future leaders in their disciplines. This is a **department-nominated** award (students cannot apply directly with UGS).

Presidential Fellows receive a stipend of **\$34,155 per year for four years**. The University Graduate School (UGS) will provide the stipend for two of the four years and the academic unit is expected to provide the stipend for the remaining two years. Also, the UGS will provide a tuition fee waiver for 24 credits per year and health insurance for 4 years of the fellowship. In addition, Presidential Fellows are eligible to receive *one* year of free housing at The One at University City (Off Campus Housing).

During the four years of support, Presidential Fellows are expected to have responsibilities consistent with the nature of the support, which may be either through a teaching or research assistantship.

### EVALUATION CRITERIA:

- Outstanding GPA
- Other evidence of likelihood of outstanding future performance as a scholar
- Excellent match between the student's research interest and availability of faculty in the department with relevant research

### MINIMUM ELIGIBILITY:

- Undergraduate or graduate GPA is greater than or equal to 3.5.
- Student is not currently enrolled in a doctoral program at FIU.

**EXPECTATIONS:**

Presidential Fellows' time to receipt of degree will be at least one term less than the unit's average.

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

**CONDITIONS FOR ANNUAL CONTINUATION OF FELLOWSHIP:**

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

**NOMINATION PROCEDURE:**

This is a department-nominated award (students cannot apply directly). Each doctoral degree-granting program may submit up to **five nominations**.

The unit must commit to the GA appointment equivalent to .50 FTE for two years at \$34,155. Additional commitments made in the form of travel funds and/or research supplies will be viewed favorably by the evaluation committee.

Nomination form (attached) needs to be submitted with supporting documentation by no later than **Thursday, January 15, 2026**.

- To submit completed electronic nominations, UGS will provide a **unique** link to each Academic Program to upload nominations in the UGS One Drive.
- Please e-mail [ugsfellows@fiu.edu](mailto:ugsfellows@fiu.edu) to request your link, **do not** e-mail your nominations.
- Nominations should be uploaded as separate files (one *pdf*. per nominee).
- Hard copy submissions will not be accepted.

**SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION:**

1. A cover letter from the Graduate Program Director providing the following:
  - a. Justification for giving an award to this nominee
  - b. Availability of faculty in the department to mentor student based on their research interest.
  - c. List of publications for each Presidential recipient for the past 5 years (include *pdf*. file of the page where fellowship was acknowledged only).
2. Statement from the student describing any prior research and plans for future research (It can be same personal statement used in the PhD application).



3. Up to three letters of recommendation (These can be same letters used in the PhD application). If soliciting letters specifically for this application, please ask references to indicate if the student is in the top 1%, 5% or 10% of all students recommended for graduate school. If the letter of recommendation comes via e-mail, please print out the e-mail message with the header showing the attached file.
4. Presidential fellowship nominee's resume/CV

**TIMELINE:**

**Thursday, January 15, 2026**

Deadline for Graduate Program Director to submit completed electronic applications using unique link provided by UGS

**Week of Monday, February 16, 2026**

Selection Committee meets to make award recommendations

**Week of Monday, February 23, 2026**

The UGS notifies departments of awards and sends official letter to all applicants

Contact Information – For further information or assistance, please contact [ugsfellows@fiu.edu](mailto:ugsfellows@fiu.edu).

## 2026 Presidential Fellowship Nomination Form

<b>Nominee's Name (Last, First)</b>
<b>Panther ID</b>
<b>Nominee's Personal Email</b>
<b>Nominee's FIU Email</b>
<b>Department/School</b>
<b>Nominee's Academic Performance (GPA must be greater than or equal to 3.5)</b> GPA Overall Undergraduate GPA _____ GPA in Grad Coursework (if any) _____
<b>Fellowship Nomination</b> UGS provides full funding for any two of the four years and the unit provides a 20-hour GA contract (0.5 FTE) for two additional years at \$34,155. Please indicate which years the student will be supported by your unit on a 20-hour GA contract (0.5 FTE): Year 1      Year 2      Year 3      Year 4
<b>Supplemental Unit Support</b> Please indicate the annual amount provided by the unit, if any, for research supplies, travel, etc. to the nominee (universities competing for these same students typically include such funds in their offer): \$ _____
<b>Endorsement</b> Our Unit is nominating the above student into the Doctoral program and commits to providing this student a graduate assistantship (TA or RA) for two years of their doctoral program at \$34,155 per year.  Chair Name: _____ Department: _____ Signature: _____ Date: _____

## **2026 Presidential Fellowship Checklist**

### **Supporting documentation to be included with nomination:**

Nomination Form

Cover letter from the Graduate Program Director

Additional letters of recommendation (up to three)

Student's personal statement

Student's resume/ CV