

**School of Natural Sciences  
University of California, Merced  
SNS Distinguished Scholars Fellowship Guidelines  
Spring 2018**

### **Purpose**

The SNS Distinguished Scholars Fellowship supports scholarly and research activities of graduate students who meet one or more of the following criteria:

- Show promise in a research area of emerging distinction at UCM or of strategic importance to SNS.
- Focus on research that crosses or combines multiple disciplines.
- Make a significant contribution to engagement in STEM research and scholarship within the continuum of learners, from K-12 through graduate and post-doctoral scholars to faculty and professionals in industry.
- Have a distinguished academic record.
- Help to diversify SNS graduate programs.

### **Qualifications and Eligibility**

- Fellows must be full-time doctoral students advised by an SNS faculty member.
- Fellows must be in good standing and should be in compliance with their program's expectations for degree milestones (qualifying exams, prospectus, etc).
- Both domestic and international students are eligible.

### **Requirements**

- Fellows must submit a report of accomplishments within 30 days of the end of the award period.
- Additional research award to be used by January 1, 2019
- The purpose of the Fellowship is to allow recipients to focus on research. Therefore, Fellows may not hold other employment during the period of the award.

### **Support**

The award provides a full, one-semester stipend (currently \$10,026) for Spring 2018. In addition, the fellowship will pay university tuition, most university fees, and non-resident supplemental tuition if applicable. (Note that recipients are responsible for payment of campus-based fees. Campus-based fees total \$318.50 per semester for AY 2017-2018.) Fellows will also receive \$3,000 to be used for research-related and/or professional development activities. Examples include: registration and travel to conferences or professional development workshops, research expenses, expendable laboratory supplies, hourly charges for use of equipment, and page charges for scholarly publications. These research funds must be used by January 1, 2019.

### **Application and Nomination Procedures**

- Each graduate group may nominate up to two students.
- Nomination packages should include: 1) a one-page personal statement written by the student that speaks to how this award will help them achieve their research/educational goals, 2) a letter of support from a UCM faculty member, 3) unofficial UCM transcripts, and 4) a note of endorsement from the Graduate Group Chair.
- Please email nomination packages to Rita Guel ([rguel@ucmerced.edu](mailto:rguel@ucmerced.edu)) by Friday, October 27, 2017. Nominations received by the deadline will be conveyed to the Executive Committee, who will recommend candidates to the Dean.
- Executive committee recommendation due to Dean by November 10, 2017
- Dean to review and announce Award recipients by November 17, 2017

**DEADLINE:** Friday October 27<sup>th</sup>, 2017

**QUESTIONS?** Rita Guel, Graduate Programs Assistant, [rguel@ucmerced.edu](mailto:rguel@ucmerced.edu)