



## Presidential Doctoral Fellowships

Up to thirty (30) merit-based fellowships will be awarded each academic year and are intended to improve USC's competitiveness for recruitment of the highest ranked applicants to USC's research-intensive doctoral programs. The Presidential Doctoral and the Graduate School Fellowships have been combined to offer greater resources to our academic programs.

Presidential Doctoral Scholars will be provided with a supplemental stipend of \$8,000 per year for each of three (3) years, contingent upon satisfactory progress towards degree, which will be used to augment the usual stipends provided to students via other fellowships, teaching and/or research assistantships. Scholars will have the opportunity for a fourth year of eligibility which will be awarded on a competitive basis. Fourth year awards are intended to reward exemplary progress as measured by publications and/or other measures of significant scholarly accomplishment and will only be awarded for the 4<sup>th</sup> or 5<sup>th</sup> year. It is expected that the student will be defending their dissertation during this year.

Presidential Doctoral Scholars will be nominated from USC's PhD granting disciplines by department chairs or graduate directors to the Graduate School prior to their official admission to USC. **Minimum** qualifications include a combined verbal and quantitative GRE score of 1340 or GMAT score of 650 and an undergraduate or graduate CGPA of 3.6, in addition to any other programmatic or Graduate School requirements. Meeting these minimum qualifications does not guarantee an award. Preference will be for US citizens or permanent residents although truly exceptional international students will also be considered.

Scholars will participate in interdisciplinary workshops and training activities throughout the academic year and will be required to register for GRAD 801. Professional development activities will be aimed at enhancing communication among students from various programs and building a sense of community among scholars in diverse research areas. Continued participation in the program will be contingent upon satisfactory progress towards the degree.

In addition to academic merit, allocation of fellowships to programs will in part reflect PhD production and success rates, with one fellowship guaranteed per program for every eight (8) PhD's generated by the program in the previous academic year. "Guaranteed" fellowships are intended to reward programs with high rates of successful PhD production although allocation is contingent upon the nomination of qualified candidates.

The remaining fellowship slots will be awarded purely on the basis of merit (admission test scores, GPA, and other supporting documentation, e.g. publication record) without bias toward any particular program.

Details on the nomination process are available on the back. Should you have any questions, please contact the Graduate School at [uscgrad@mailbox.sc.edu](mailto:uscgrad@mailbox.sc.edu) or 803-777-4243.

## **NOMINATION PROCEDURES:**

Nominations for the Presidential Doctoral Fellowship must be submitted electronically by the department chair or graduate director to the Graduate School via GMS (<https://gradschool.sc.edu/gradstaff/intranet/gms/index.asp>). Once logged-in, the nomination form is accessible by clicking on Fellowships and Awards, then Presidential Doctoral Fellowships. Once here, the required information can be entered for each nominee.

Nominees must have applied for admission to a PhD program at USC and have met all unit criteria for acceptance. Nominating units must assemble and upload a copy of the student's relevant information (i.e. copies of GRE/GMAT scores, transcripts and letters of recommendation) plus a brief nomination letter from the department chair or graduate director outlining the merits of the nominee and the likely source of base support for the nominee (including summer stipends).

Preference will be given to nominations where the nominee is promised 12 months of full support via fellowships, teaching, and/or research assistantships. An additional condition of the award will include the expectation that the nominee will apply for available national awards during the first year as a student (e.g. NSF GRF).

**There is no formal application deadline.** However, programs should prepare nominations as early as possible. Experience suggests a higher rate of acceptance during the early part of recruiting. Notifications of awards will be made usually within one week of submission.

## **SUMMARY of Fellowship:**

### Minimum Qualifications for Nominees:

- Must have applied to a PhD program and meet all admission requirements
- Minimum 1340 GRE/ 650 GMAT, 3.6 CGPA
- US Citizens preferred
- Exceptional international students may be considered

### Award Amount & Other Guidelines:

- The amount of the Presidential Fellowship is \$8,000/year for three (3) years with the opportunity for a competitive renewal for a final year
- The Presidential Fellowship must be matched by 12 months of full support via teaching or research assistantships, summer stipends or other fellowships (i.e. the Presidential Fellowship should not be the primary source of financial support for the student)
- Funds may be applied to tuition and fees and/or to enhance the student's stipend
- Award recipients will be enrolled in GRAD 801, a professional development seminar series

## **Please note the following CHANGES:**

Nominations must be submitted electronically. Paper submissions will not be accepted. Students applying to masters programs are not eligible for Presidential Fellowships. The limit on the maximum number of nominations per program is waived.