



FLORIDA STATE
UNIVERSITY

Office of Graduate Fellowships and Awards

Quality Enhancement Plan Meeting

Dr. Keith McCall, Assistant Director

November 18, 2022



OGFA Overview

Enhancing the Graduate Experience through Fellowships and Awards

The Office of Graduate Fellowships and Awards (OGFA) assists current FSU graduate students with **identifying and applying for external funding**. External sponsors **recognize graduate student excellence** through nationally competitive awards. Merit and need based funding offers resources for graduate students to conduct research and participate in value added experiences that **support their graduate education and promotes FSU's reputation as a Top 20 national public university**.

OGFA executes this mission through:

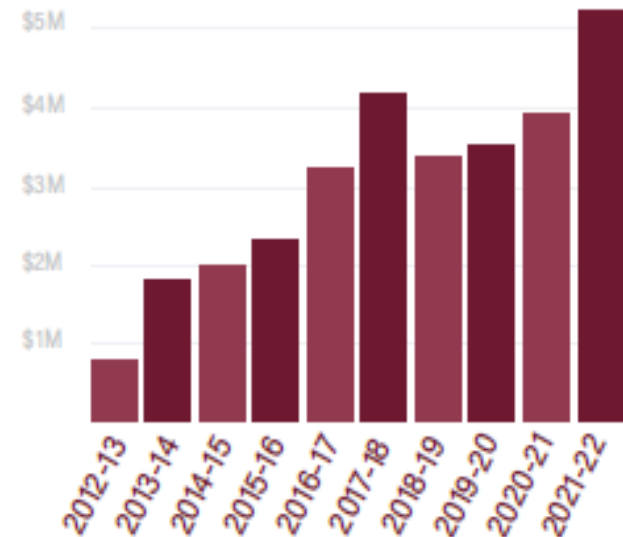
- Student-Centered, Holistic Advising that views securing fellowship and awards as an element of Graduate Students' professional development
- One-on-one advising and application support for Graduate Students
- Workshops on range of topics related to identifying and applying for funding
- Distribution of key funding information to FSU Graduate community
- Outreach and collaboration with Campus Partners (ORD, RWC, CIES, OPDA, etc.)
- Recognition of FSU Graduate Student success related to external funding



Fellowships and Awards Highlights

FSU Graduate Students set a record for external funding at the institution in the 2021-2022 Academic Year.

OVER
\$5.2 Million
IN EXTERNAL FUNDING
awarded to FSU Graduate Students





Notable Fellowships and Awards

The 2022-2023 Academic Year is on track to be another strong year for Graduate Student Funding, with \$3.1 million reported so far.

Notable awards received from 2017-2022

- 25 PEO Scholar Awards (Women/Dissertation)
- 24 NSF Graduate Research Fellowship Program Awards (STEM)
- 19 Fulbright U.S. Student Program Awards (International Education)
- 67 McKnight Doctoral and Dissertation Fellowships (Diversity and Inclusion)
- 2 Ford Dissertation Fellowships (Diversity and Inclusion)
- 3 DOD SMART Fellowships (STEM)
- 8 NIH F31 Awards (Independent Research/Workforce Development)



Excellence in Diversity and Inclusion

OGFA has fostered collaborations with various units across campus:

- The Center for Intensive English Studies
- The Center for Global Engagement
- The Department of International Affairs
- Office of the Provost/International Initiatives
- The Student Veterans Center





McKnight Doctoral Fellowship

The McKnight Doctoral Fellowship is designed to address the under-representation of African American and Hispanic faculty in academia by increasing the pool of candidates graduating with Ph.D. degrees from participating Florida universities.

- The McKnight Doctoral Fellowship Program has been in existence since 1984 and has graduated **926** PhDs from nine universities in the State of Florida.
- FSU has been awarded **297 fellowships** since the inception of the program with **179 graduates to date** and **43 fellows currently matriculating**.
- The McKnight Doctoral Fellowship Program's **retention and graduation rate is 89%**, while the national rate, according to the *Survey of Earned Doctorates*, is approximately 50%.



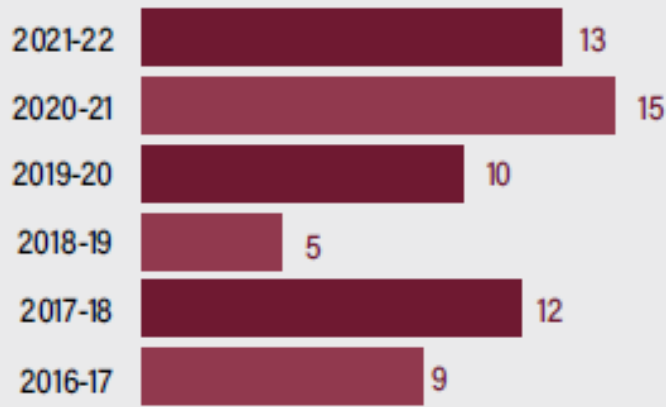
McKnight Doctoral Fellowship

2022-2023 Cohort:
7 Doctoral Fellows
4 Dissertation Fellows

OGFA and The Graduate School manage the McKnight Doctoral Fellowship Program at FSU including:

- Serving on the Selection Review Committee
- Ensuring FSU Departmental commitment to support Fellows through successful completion of the doctoral program
- Post-award funds management
- Professional Development and Community Building for Fellows

McKnight Doctoral & Dissertation Fellows by year



McKnight Doctoral Fellows at 2019 Annual Fellows Meeting



McKnight Doctoral Fellowship

Doctoral Fellowship Breakdown of Funding Support (merit-based)

- Years 1-3 - The McKnight Doctoral Fellowship (MDF) provides stipend support at \$12,000 and up to \$5,000 for tuition and fees. The Graduate School covers the excess tuition and fee costs.
- Year 4 - The Graduate School funds the fellowship (stipend, tuition, and fees).
- Year 5 - The Department supports the fellowship with an assistantship.

Improve Recruitment and Retention of McKnight Fellows at FSU

- Devote resources to make 5th year funding package more competitive with other in-state peer institutions (UF, UCF)



Opportunities to Move the Goal Forward

- Zero-credit, zero-cost “Fellowship course”
- “Courtesy waivers” for externally funded students
- “Top-off funding” to ensure external fellowships and awards received provide an advantage to students
- Provide *transparency* and *easily accessible information* for Colleges and Departments to support external funding awardees
 - “One-pager” on University policy regarding tuition/fees/enrollment for fellows and grantees



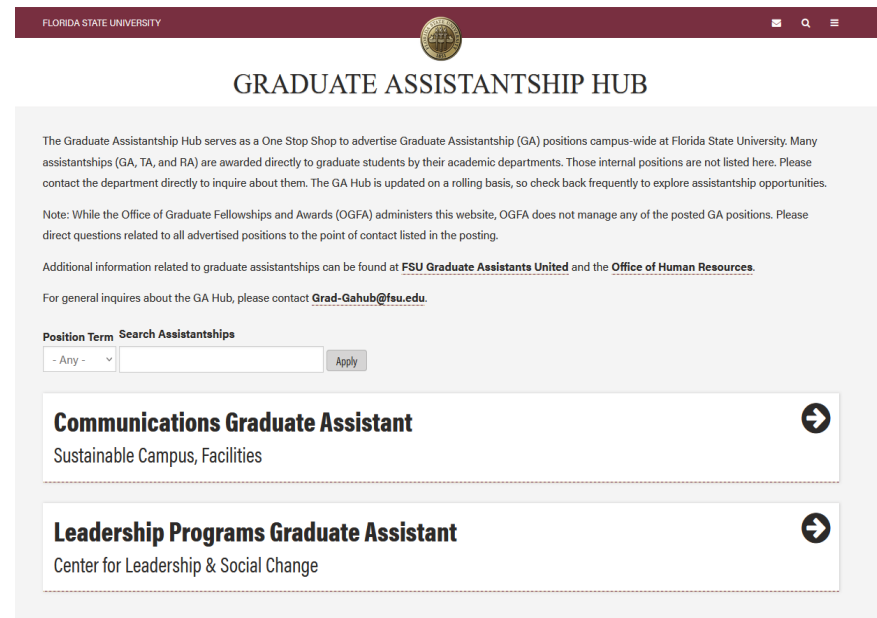
Opportunities to Move the Goal Forward

- Increasing OGFA's *visibility* and *capacity to support students* throughout the application process
 - Expand OGFA's Application and Writing support through additional OGFA Graduate Assistants or formalized peer mentor program (faculty, graduate students, postdocs)
 - Standardized intake process would allow OGFA to provide key information to Departments to help them support externally funded students



Connecting Students with Funding: The Graduate Assistantship Hub

- The GA database would provide a constantly up-to-date and centralized listing of available University wide GA positions, streamlining the process of connecting students to opportunities and removing a significant barrier to funding and student success.
- By making GA postings more accessible and easier to find, the database would facilitate a more equitable approach to graduate student employment.
- Better advertising for GA positions will yield more applicants, helping departments and units find the most qualified students to fill positions necessary for the operation and success of the university.





Measures of Impact

Quantitative

- Track number of FSU Graduate Students receiving one-on-one application support through OGFA
- Track number of FSU Graduate Students securing External Funding
- Track recruitment and retention rate of underrepresented students pursuing graduate study at FSU (with and without fellowship and award support)

Qualitative

- Assess student feedback on the value of the external funding application process for scholarly and professional development
- Assess how policies and procedures facilitate fellowships and awards at departmental level to reduce financial burden on students
- Assess integration of fellowships and awards into departmental QER process with incentives



Questions?

**The Office of Graduate Fellowships and Awards
Honors, Scholars, and Fellows House 127 Honors Way**

ogfa-info@fsu.edu

ogfa.fsu.edu

850-645-0850



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