

Graduate School Funding Options

Always remind people that you're a self-funding student. A good offer = a full waiver + five years of guaranteed funding + health insurance. If you're fully funded, which school is more expensive, Harvard (a private school), or NMU (a public school)? They're the same! In-state and out of state tuition will cost the same to you. Now, cost of living in Cambridge may be higher, but their stipend is also higher as well. Private schools often have larger endowments, they can be more generous.

Get all offers in writing. Winter of your senior year, have all calls go straight to voicemail. In February schools will be reaching out and you want time to strategize! When you call back, act super pumped, then ask what their funding is. "OMG Dr. X, I'm so glad you've called! Especially since you're from ___! I love your _____. What sort of package are you talking about? I'm required by my McNair Director to get all offers in writing. Email is great, yes, ____@nmu.edu would be perfect. Yay, I'm so excited to hear this great news!!"

Play offers against each other:

- "I love ___ school/dept name_, but I have unfortunately received offers that are more generous. What can we do?"
- "I've been offered admission elsewhere, but I would not like to be forced to make a decision without knowing where I stand with you."
- "I've come to learn of decisions from other schools, and I have yet to hear from you. I want to emphasize my commitment to __department__ at __school__."

Always ask "Does the department fund all students? How do I become one of those you fund?"

Financial aid in grad school means loans, so never ask about it. You're looking for fellowships and assistantships. There are usually 3 types of assistantships at schools.

Teaching Assistant - assists with teaching, chosen by committee

Research Assistant - Helps with research, often grant-funded, chosen by the PI

Graduate Assistant - Job in the office, chosen the same way most jobs are - If your school has a McNair or any other TRiO programs, reach out. They may be hiring a GA.

You don't have to be perfect, but you do have to apply.

Databases

UCLA's Graduate and Postdoctoral Extramural Support (GRAPES) Database:

<https://grad.ucla.edu/funding/>

InfoEd Spin: <https://spin.infoedglobal.com/Home/SOLRSearch>

The National McNair's funding list: <https://mcnairscholars.com/funding/>

National Science Foundation:

https://beta.nsf.gov/funding/opportunities?f%5b0%5d=student_educator_eligibility:grad

National Endowment for the Humanities: <https://www.neh.gov/grants/listing>

Council of Graduate Schools Database of Federally Funded Fellowships/Traineeships:

https://public.tableau.com/profile/harper.garfinkle#!/vizhome/CORMusicLibrary_16101209624180/CGSGFTDashboard

Scholarship Database for Law School: <https://www.accesslex.org/databank>

Scholarship Database for Grad Studies: <https://www.cappex.com/scholarships/masters-degrees>

ProFellow: <https://www.profellow.com/>

Grants: <https://www.grants.gov/>

Hispanic Scholarship Funds: <https://www.hsf.net/>

UCSC Fellowship and Funding Guide: <https://graddiv.ucsc.edu/financial-aid/fellowships.html>

Financial Aid for Minorities Blog: <https://lendedu.com/blog/financial-aid-for-minorities/>

Illinois Database of Grants and Fellowships for Graduate Students:

<https://apps.grad.illinois.edu/fellowship-finder/>

Pathways to Science: <https://pathwaystoscience.org/grad.aspx>

Go Grad Women in STEM: <https://www.gograd.org/resources/women-in-stem>

Fellowships

Florida International University has a decent overview of what fellowships are [here](#); every school is slightly different.

National Science Foundation – Graduate Research Fellowship Program:

Website: <https://www.nsf.gov/funding/opportunities/grfp-nsf-graduate-research-fellowship-program>

Amount	Who	Requirements	Deadline
\$34,000 stipend – 3 years \$12,000 – education credit	*Graduating Undergrads *First year grad students *STEM fields	Enroll in Ph.D program	End of October – Varies by discipline.

Future Faculty Fellowship:

Website: <https://nmu.edu/graduatestudies/future-faculty-fellowship>

Amount	Who	Requirements	Deadline
\$20K for Masters \$35k for Ph.D	*MI institution attendees *Future Faculty *All disciplines	Teach in postsecondary within 1 year of graduation for up to 3 years	November

Fellowships for New Americans:

Website: <https://www.pdsoros.org/>

Amount	Who	Requirements	Deadline
\$25,000 stipend – 2 years 50% of required tuition and fees for up to 2 years	*Immigrants and children of immigrants in the United States *A college senior or holder of a bachelor's degree. *Not beyond their second year – if already enrolled – in the graduate degree program for which the applicant has requested support.	Enroll in a full-time graduate degree program	November 1

Ford Fellowship:

Website: <https://www.nationalacademies.org/our-work/ford-foundation-fellowships>

Amount	Who	Requirements	Deadline
*\$24,000 stipend – 3 yrs	*Graduating Undergrads *Doctoral Student *Post-doctoral students	Enroll in Ph.D program	December 17

Ford Foundation Predoctoral Fellowships:

Website: http://sites.nationalacademies.org/pga/FordFellowships/PGA_047958

Amount	Who	Requirements	Deadline
*\$20,000 stipend – 3 years \$2,000 towards tuition and fees	*Graduating Undergrads *Current Grad Students	Individuals enrolled in or planning to enroll in an eligible research-based	January 7

		(dissertation-required) , program leading to a PhD or ScD Bonus points if you're an underrepresented minority	
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DOE Computational Science Graduate Fellowship:

Website: <https://www.krellinst.org/csgf/>

Amount	Who	Requirements	Deadline
*\$36,000 stipend + tuition/fees – 4 years *Annual research allowance of \$5,000 (first year), then \$1,000 for each renewed year (up to 4 years total) to be used for the purchase of a computer or for research expenses.	*Graduating Undergrads *First Year Grad Students	Enroll in an engineering program, or in a program in the physical, computer, mathematical or life sciences.	January 9

Walter Byers Postgraduate Scholarship Program:

Website: <http://www.ncaa.org/walter-byers-graduate-scholarship>

Amount	Who	Requirements	Deadline
*\$24,000 stipend – 2 years	*Graduating Undergrads *Current Grad Students or post-baccalaureate professional degree seekers	Have competed in intercollegiate athletics as a member of a varsity team at an NCAA member institution 3.5 GPA or better	January 11

Hispanic Scholarship Fund General College Scholarships:

Website: <https://www.hsf.net/scholarship>

Amount	Who	Requirements	Deadline
*Between \$500 to \$5,000, based on need	*Graduating Undergrads *Current Grad Students	Must be of Hispanic heritage Minimum 2.5 GPA	February 15

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Dannon Gut Microbiome, Yogurt and Probiotics Fellowship Program:

Website:

<https://www.danonenorthamerica.com/newsroom/details/danone-north-america-opens-applications-for-an-nual-gut-microbiome,-yogurt-and-probiotics-fellowship-grant.html.html.html.html>

Amount	Who	Requirements	Deadline
*\$25,000 for tuition, or towards research	*Graduating Undergrads *Current Grad Students *Postdoctoral Student	Science Student who has an interest in researching yogurt and probiotics.	March 25