



Fellowships Roadmap: Funding for Graduate/Professional Study

This roadmap is meant as a guide to help you break down the steps towards applying for funding for graduate or professional study. It is not exhaustive, nor is it mandatory, but we hope it will be useful to you in the application process! As always, if you have any questions, feel free to email fellowships@wellesley.edu, drop in to [Fellowships Virtual Pop-ups](#), or [book a Fellowships advising appointment](#) via Handshake. We'd love to talk with you!

Attention applicants for all postgrad fellowships!

Opt in for the [Fellowships Summer Starting Line](#) to access special appointments over the summer.

Related Career Education resources:

- [Introduction to Graduate School](#)
- [Preparing to Apply for Graduate School](#)
- [Application Timelines for Graduate School](#)
- [Financing Your Graduate School Education](#) (including costs, loans, financial aid, etc.)

Things to consider:

- Do not wait until you've been accepted into a graduate/professional program to look for funding. In most cases, you'll be applying for funding at about the same time as you're applying for degree programs, or otherwise applying for funding in the academic year *before* you want to use the funding (e.g., if you're hoping for a scholarship to fund your study during academic year 2023-24, many of the funding deadlines will be during the fall of 2022).
- While one full-cost scholarship would be great, these are hard to win, so don't overlook smaller awards which could perhaps add up to enough to make a big difference to your ability to afford graduate study.
- While everyone is different, there tends to be a happy medium in terms of the number of applications you submit, so that you can get the most mileage out of your hard work but not spread yourself (or your recommenders) too thin. The Fellowships team is happy to help you find the best balance!

1. Explore!

- Browse our [resources](#) and [deadlines](#) (which you can filter by "research/gradschool" or "international student") and consider what fellowships and scholarships might line up with the graduate degree you'd like to pursue. You don't have to have your graduate plans set in stone to start looking!
- Check out our toolkit ([#fellowshipstoolkit](#)), which contains helpful information about personal statements, asking for references, etc.
- [Book a fellowships appointment](#) as available through Handshake or drop in to [Fellowships Virtual Pop-up advising](#) to talk things over with us.

2. Choosing fellowships and building timelines

- Choose the fellowship(s) for which you'd like to apply and map out how the deadlines fall in the year (the Fellowships team can help with this!).
 - o Pro-tip: Don't forget to factor in other commitments, like classes, jobs, internships, and personal time- not to mention applications to grad/prof programs!
- Determine application requirements and components and build some helpful lists: what materials will you need and when? How many references does an application require? Whom would you ask to write references? Are there specific essay prompts for a particular application?
- Check out Career Education's resources on personal statements ([here](#) and [here](#)) and fellowship [proposals](#) as well as [asking for references](#).

3. Brainstorming (and maybe even writing!)

- Build some bullet lists, outlines, or mind maps as a starting point for your essays, answering some key motivation questions: Why *this* particular degree or course of study? Why this university? Why



this fellowship? How will this degree and/or fellowship help you grow and where would you like to go next?

- o **Start** Pro-tip: You don't have to be 100%, unequivocally, entirely committed to a single fellowship or program to answer these questions—all you need to do is make the case for why this might be a great path for you to pursue.
 - [Book a Fellowships appointment](#) to talk over ideas, bullet lists, or preliminary drafts. Please keep in mind that summer is a busy season for the Fellowships team, so we encourage you to book an appointment sooner as opposed to later!
 - Ask for references, and be prepared to follow up closer to the deadline with at least an outline or rough draft of your essay/resume for your recommenders. **We recommend giving your recommenders at least eight weeks' notice to prepare a letter of reference.**
4. **Drafting!**
- Continue to work on drafts, possibly scheduling another appointment (as needed and as available) to do another round of draft review.
 - If applicable, your future self will thank you if you plan ahead, submit your drafts by the [Optional Priority Draft Deadline](#), & ensure a draft review appointment even at a busy season.
 - o *The Optional Priority Draft Deadline (typically at the end of July) is available for Wellesley applicants for postgraduate fellowships with deadlines that fall between August 20 and December 31. If you submit drafts by this deadline, you are guaranteed feedback before the relevant deadlines, and you'll get priority in the booking of advising appointments.*
5. **Breather!**
- Set your application aside and take a few days. You've done so much good work!
6. **Polish, finalize, hit go!**
- Polish and finalize your applications: don't forget about short/medium length answers (use every word available to make your case!), and double check requirements (resume/CV in order?).
 - Follow up with your recommenders if you haven't heard from them, keeping in mind that the end of summer/beginning of fall tends to be a super busy time for professors.
 - For early fall deadlines, hit submit (and don't forget to celebrate!).
7. **Look ahead—and repurpose**
- Prepare for your next deadline(s).
 - Make use of the Three Fellowships R's: **reduce** your workload by **revising** your materials and **repurposing** them where you can in other applications!
 - Feel free to [make another appointment](#) to do further draft review, check in, or do some more exploring—or drop in to [Fellowship Pop-Up Advising](#)—we'd always love to chat!

Sunny with a chance of Schwarzman: Deadlines Forecast

Note that these fellowships are a small sample of a much larger list—check out our [deadlines](#) section and use “Fellowship” to reveal filters for “research/gradschool” or “international student.”

August	September	October	November	December	January	February
- Rhodes* - Marshall* - Mitchell* - Fulbright (campus)	- McCall MacBain - Pickering/Rangel - Schwarzman	- Fulbright (nat'l) - Knight-Hennessy - Churchill* - NSF GRFP - Gates-Cambridge	- St. Andrew's* - Yenching Academy* - AAUW - Soros - Chevening - DAAD	- Ford Foundation - NIH - Gates-Cambridge 	- Wellesley College Graduate Fellowships	- Knafel Scholarship for Foreign Study

