

 Stony Brook University
Dr. W. Burghardt Turner Fellowship Program

To: Graduate Program Directors, Graduate Program Coordinators
From: Karian Wright, Director, Center for Inclusive Education
Date: **July 16, 2026**
Subject: **2026-2027 DR. W. BURGHARDT TURNER DISSERTATION FELLOWSHIP**

Mission

The Dr. W. Burghardt Turner Dissertation Fellowship assists eligible doctoral students in the timely completion of their dissertations and engages them in the Turner Fellowship and Center for Inclusive Education communities. Candidates will contribute to the diversity of the student body by demonstrating their commitment to facilitating and enhancing diversity, equity, and inclusion efforts in their academic programs and activities.

This fellowship is one of the many programs coordinated by the Center for Inclusive Education (CIE) at Stony Brook University and is funded by the SUNY Office of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (ODEI). This fellowship directs aid to graduate students who have demonstrated academic achievement and overcome a disadvantage or other impediment to success in higher education. Candidates will contribute to the CIE's mission, which is to increase awareness of issues related to diversity at the university level by collaborating with faculty and staff to enhance the diversity of their respective departments; identifying and working to remove barriers to underrepresented scholar success; and at the national level, engaging in scholarly research activities and program assessment - all with the ultimate goal of contributing to a greater body of knowledge related to issues of inclusion and diversity.

Application Instructions and Timeline

To confirm eligibility, students must first speak with their Graduate Program Director AND advisor to confirm their eligibility. **Graduate Program Directors will initiate the nomination process via Qualtrics, which will then prompt the student to complete the application.** Advisors will be sent an email with instructions to submit their Letter of Support to the TurnerFellowships@stonybrook.edu inbox.

Notifications about fellowship decisions will be sent by August 20th. We anticipate awarding 5-10 fellowships during this application cycle.

Deadlines and Dates	Details
Thursday, August 6, 2026 11:59 PM (ET)	GPD submits the nomination via Qualtrics: 2026 Turner Dissertation Fellowship Once submitted, student nominees will be emailed a link to complete their portion of the application Advisor(s) will be emailed instructions on the required Letter of Support
Thursday, August 13, 2026 11:59 PM (EDT)	Students complete their portion of the application via Qualtrics Advisors submit their Letters of Support to TurnerFellowships@stonybrook.edu
August 20, 2026	Fellowship Award notifications emailed to recipients (copy GPD & Advisor)

Award Information

- Departments may nominate dissertation fellows for either 1 or 2-year awards of \$10,000 per year to be disbursed in two annual, one-half installments.
- In the case of 2-year nominations, departments are **required** to supplement the Turner support with other departmental funding for a minimum of one year in the form of a TA, GA or RA appointment.
- Recipients must be registered for full-time study by day 15 of each semester in order to maintain eligibility.

Eligibility

To participate in the SUNY Graduate Doctoral Fellowship Program (GDFP), known as the Dr. W. Burghardt Turner Fellowship at Stony Brook, candidates are required to meet the following criteria:

1. United States Citizen or Permanent Resident
2. Doctoral student at Stony Brook University
3. Advancement to Candidacy (G5) prior to the start of the requested semester of fellowship distribution
4. Have NOT received previous funding support from the Dr. W. Burghardt Turner Fellowship Program; Ferguson Merit Award recipients **are** eligible for the Turner Dissertation Fellowship.
5. Demonstrate how they have overcome a disadvantage or other impediment to success in higher education.
6. Demonstrate a commitment to contributing to the diversity of the student body by facilitating and enhancing diversity, equity, and inclusion efforts in their academic programs and campus activities.

Even though financial need is not a requirement for program eligibility, applicants may utilize economic disadvantage as a basis for eligibility.

Preference will be given to candidates who are:

- From a **low-income background** (e.g., Pell-eligible as undergraduates, eligible for Federal Free and Reduced Lunch Program for 2+ years, received support from the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children, have experienced homelessness, have been in the foster care system, or grew up in a U.S. rural area as designated by the Health Resources and Services Administration),
- Were **first-generation college students**
- Have **overcome adversity**,
- Are **AmeriCorps alumni**,
- Are **veterans or active/reserve duty military service members**

This scholarship program is open to any and all prospective candidates regardless of race, color, national origin, or sex, and is consistent with all current governing federal and state nondiscrimination law. All application submissions will be assessed and evaluated in accordance with the required eligibility criteria.

All campus distributions are pending annual state budget approval. While we have been awarding campuses scholarships for many years, funding may not be guaranteed every year.

For more information about the Turner Dissertation Fellowship Program, please visit our website at www.stonybrook.edu/cie/turner. For questions regarding the Turner Dissertation Fellowship, please contact Rosalia Davi, Program Manager, at TurnerFellowships@stonybrook.edu.

Sincerely,



Karian Wright
Assistant Dean for Diversity and Inclusion, the Graduate School
Director, the Center for Inclusive Education