

Types of Aid Available for Graduate Education

grad.ncsu.edu/students/fellowships-and-grants

The range of financial assistance available at the graduate level is very broad. There are five basic types of financial assistance: fellowships/traineeships, teaching assistantships (TA's), research assistantships (RA's), Federal Work-Study, and loans. This fact sheet will focus on fellowships/traineeships. Further information on the work-study program and federal loan programs may be obtained from the Office of Scholarships and Financial Aid at:

financialaid.ncsu.edu

Fellowships, Traineeships and Grants

These are outright awards and require no service in return. They may be based on merit and/or financial need. Often they provide the cost of tuition and fees plus a stipend to cover living expenses. If you are interested in applying for a fellowship (sometimes called a "traineeship") at NC State, the first place to inquire is at the departmental level. Some graduate programs and colleges offer their own fellowships/traineeships.

Other federal and state fellowships and grants are awarded to the Graduate School, which then appoints a selections committee to choose students for the awards. In some cases, students apply directly to the Graduate School to be considered for an award. For example, a direct application may be submitted to the Graduate School to be considered for a Diversity Enhancement Grant. In other cases, students apply to their home department, which, in turn, selects nominees for fellowships and then submits their nominations to the Graduate School. Such programs include U.S. Department of Education Graduate Assistance in Areas of National Need (GAANN) Fellowships, as well as NIH Biotechnology Traineeships. In addition, students may be nominated by their departments for NC State awards funded through endowments (e.g., Andrews, Collier, Wachovia, Ward, Warren Wolfpack and Wilkinson fellow-

ships) and other sources (e.g., Provost's Doctoral Fellowships and University Graduate Fellowships). Information on institutionally awarded fellowships, traineeships and grants administered by the Graduate School is available at:

grad.ncsu.edu/students/fellowships-and-grants/opportunities

Some fellowships are awarded directly to individual students by federal or state agencies or private organizations. Such nationally competitive "portable" fellowships are awards where a student may apply directly to a granting organization/agency. Once awarded a fellowship (with some exceptions), the student may take it to any university to which he or she has been admitted or in which he or she is enrolled. Links to databases that may be used to search for nationally competitive portable fellowship opportunities are available at:

grad.ncsu.edu/students/fellowships-and-grants/national

When applying for fellowships, it is vital to be aware of all deadline dates. It is best to get an early start in searching for fellowships. The following are some examples of deadlines for the 2017-2018 academic year: NSF-October 2016; Ford Foundation-November 2016; National Defense Science and Engineering Graduate Fellowships-December 2016. Please also note that most (but not all) federally awarded fellowships require an applicant to be a U.S. citizen or national or permanent resident alien of the United States at the time of application. In addition, fellowships may be taxable.

Searching for Funding

The following are examples of search engines available on the web, direct links to which are also available at the above web site. They may be used to identify not only nationally competitive fellowship support but also research funding and other types of awards.

InfoEd SPIN Database
go.ncsu.edu/spin

FastWeb Database
fastweb.com

Pathways to Science
pathwaystoscience.org

The Office of Undergraduate Fellowship Advising

The Graduate School works with the NC State Office of Undergraduate Fellowship Advising, which also provides a number of services to both undergraduate and graduate students. Similar to the services offered by the Graduate School, this office makes information about major national fellowships and other scholarship and grant opportunities available to all students. It also provides students with assistance in determining their eligibility for and potential to succeed in the various fellowship competitions; enhancing their writing, speaking, and interviewing skills; and general support for the competition processes.

Importantly, this office administers the competitions for a number of the major national fellowship and scholarship competitions *requiring institutional endorsement*, including the Jack Kent Cooke, Fulbright, Marshall, Mitchell, and Rhodes. It also provides advising and support for nationally competitive fellowship programs not requiring nomination, including Gates Cambridge, Hertz, James Madison, Mellon, and NSF. Please visit fellowships.ncsu.edu for more information about these specific opportunities and other services provided by this office.

Teaching Assistantships

These positions may involve delivering lectures, correcting coursework, grading papers, counseling students, and supervising laboratory groups. Usually about 20 hours of work each week is required. Contact the Director of Grad-

uate Programs in your department for availability of TA's and further details.

Research Assistantships

These positions usually require the student to assist in the research activities of the faculty. Contact the Director of Graduate Programs in your department for availability of RA's and for further details.

Federal Work-Study Program

The Federal Work-Study Program provides eligible students with employment opportunities, either at the university or in off-campus, non-profit organizations. In general, graduate work-study positions are designed to complement and reinforce each recipient's educational or career goals. To apply, graduate students should contact the Office of Scholarships and Financial Aid, and complete a Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) and supporting forms.

Other Types of Support

Cooperative Education Program

cdc.dasa.ncsu.edu/students/learning-about-co-op

Study Abroad

studyabroad.ncsu.edu

University Career Center

cdc.dasa.ncsu.edu

Contact

For additional information on fellowships available through the Graduate School and for funding information in general, you may contact Dr. David Shafer, Assistant Dean of the Graduate School; Campus Box 7102; 919.515.7052; dmschafer@ncsu.edu and/or go to:

grad.ncsu.edu/students/fellowships-and-grants

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