FINANCIAL AID

GRADUATE RESEARCH FELLOWSHIPS AND AWARDS

Graduate Dean's Fellowship

The Graduate Dean's Fellowship is a prestigious, competitive fellowship which provides advanced graduate students with $11,500 in stipend support, tuition and fees, $500 for research supplies, $750 in funds to travel and/or present at a conference, and access to a laptop for one year. The applicant must be conducting research in fields that the Board of Governors has identified as areas of state need. Three fellowships will be awarded this year.

Outstanding Graduate Assistant Award

The Outstanding Graduate Assistant Award is a prestigious, competitive fellowship which will provide four research and/or teaching assistants with $500 each for use on research related material. Applicants must have demonstrated knowledge in their areas, resourcefulness and innovation in solving research, teaching or administrative problems. Applicant must be nominated by a Department/Division Dean, Chairperson or Supervisor.

Research and Professional Development Award

The Research and Professional Development Award will provide funds for up to $500 for a graduate student to present research findings at a professional conference. Awards determined by availability of funds.* Applicant must be endorsed by a member of the Graduate Faculty or Advisor.

Thesis/Dissertation Travel Award

The Thesis/Dissertation Travel Award is designed to provide up to $500 for graduate students working on regional or comparative research sites to collect data.* Recipients may receive this award once. Applicant must be endorsed by a member of the Graduate Faculty and/or Graduate Advisor.

Graduate Single Parent Award

The Single Parent Award is a prestigious, competitive fellowship which provides tuition and fees plus $500.00 for books and research related materials to 4 single parents who are conducting outstanding research in their field of study.
Undergraduate Research Initiative Fellowship

The Undergraduate Research Initiative Fellowship is a prestigious, competitive fellowship which provides $750 in stipend support during the Spring semester to sophomores, juniors and seniors. Recipients will be assigned to a research project with a graduate faculty member and will present their research experience at a symposium of all recipients and faculty mentors. The award can only be received once during a student's undergraduate career.

State, Federal and Private Funding Opportunities

Delores A. Auzenne Fellowships
The Delores A. Auzenne Fellowship for underrepresented minorities is available through the School of Graduate Studies at Florida A&M University. The Auzenne Fellowship award is $5,000 per year and the application deadline is March 1st circa. Applicants must be enrolled in a graduate degree program, classified as U.S. citizens or permanent residents, and accepted in an appropriate graduate degree program.

McKnight Doctoral Fellowship Program
The McKnight Doctoral Fellowship Program is designed to address the under-representation of African American faculty at colleges and universities in the State of Florida, by increasing the pool of African American citizens qualified with Ph.D. degrees to teach at the college and university level. As a by-product, it is expected that employment opportunities will also be expanded. The McKnight Doctoral Fellowship provides full tuition, up to $5,000 per year, plus an annual stipend for students pursuing Ph.D. degrees at universities in the State of Florida.

Federal Student Loans
The Office of Student Financial Aid coordinates and administers loan assistance to graduate students. The primary loan program is the Subsidized Stafford Student Loan (GSL) with loan amounts up to $8,500
per year. Students seeking loan assistance through this program must establish financial need by submitting the Free Application for Federal Student Aid form (FAFSA).

The Perkins Loan is also available to graduate students if the student received the loan as an undergraduate or transferred from another institution where the loan was in effect. Students seeking this loan must also establish financial need. For additional information on any of the above loan programs, contact the Office of Student Financial Aid at (850) 599-3730 or email: finaid@famu.edu.

**Emergency Loans**

The University also offers a short-term emergency loan in the amount of $500 (or greater depending on the circumstance) to graduate students but must be repaid by the end of the semester in which the loan is received.

**GEM**

GEM was formed in 1976 to help encourage minority men and women to pursue graduate study in engineering. It was created specifically to assist American Indians, African Americans, Mexican Americans, and Puerto Ricans in obtaining practical experience through summer internships at consortium employer work-sites and to finance graduate study towards a master's or Ph.D. degree. The M.S. Engineering Fellowship Program consists of tuition, fees, and a $6,000 stipend per academic year. The Ph.D. Fellowship Program includes tuition, fees and a $12,000 stipend. After the first year of study, GEM fellows are supported completely by their respective universities, and support may include teaching or research assistantships.

Forty (40) portable fellowships are awarded annually in each program. The application deadline is December 1. Awards are announced by February 1st. For more information, contact GEM, PO Box 537 Notre Dame, IN 46556 or (219) 287-1488. Contact the School of Graduate Studies for applications and information.

**State University System Summer Orientation Fellowships**

This program provides first-time graduate students with a $1,300 stipend during the summer term. Candidates should be graduating seniors or recent graduates; The program is primarily for new students. It is designed to orientate them to graduate study at FAMU by familiarizing them with graduate programs, courses of study, methods of instruction, faculty, administrative offices, counselors, and procedures for admission, registration and financial aid. The deadline is March 15th of each year. Contact the School of Graduate Studies for applications and information.
Critical Teacher Shortage Student Loan Forgiveness Program

The loan forgiveness program was created to attract qualified personnel to seek employment in the Florida public schools. It is designated to address the critical teacher shortage areas. The program provides repayment of educational loans in return for teaching in a critical teacher shortage area. Up to $2,500 per year is awarded for four (4) years for teachers with undergraduate loans and $5,000 per year for up to two (2) years for teachers with graduate loans.

Certified Florida public school teachers teaching for the first time in a critical teacher shortage subject area are eligible to apply. Applicants must apply during the first twelve (12) months they are certified and teaching full-time in a critical subject area. Applications are available from district school board offices or the Offices of Student Financial Assistance and must be postmarked by April 15th.

Critical Teacher Shortage Tuition Re-Imbursement Program

This is a program that provides tuition reimbursement to encourage public school district employees to become certified in, or gain a graduate degree in a critical teacher shortage area. Up to $78 per credit hour for up to nine credit hours per academic year is awarded. Reimbursement will be given up to a total of thirty-six (36) credit hours.

Applicants must be full-time employees certified to teach in Florida and currently under full-time contract in a Florida school district. Courses must be completed with a 3.0 or higher grade point average to either acquire or renew certification or to complete a graduate degree in a state-designated critical teacher shortage area. Applications are available from district school board offices or the Office of Student Financial Assistance. Applications must be postmarked by the deadline indicated on the form for each term reimbursement is requested.

Seminole Indian Scholarships

This is a need-based assistance program for full-time and part-time Florida's Seminole and Miccosukee Indians for study at one of Florida’s State Universities. Eligibility is determined by the tribe and the Florida Department of Education criteria. For more information, contact the Florida Department of Education at (850) 487-0049.
Jose Marti Scholarship Challenge Grant
This is a need-based scholarship grant for Hispanic-American students or those with origins in the Caribbean, Central and South America (regardless of race). Award is $2,000 per academic year for a maximum of four semesters of full-time graduate study. Students must have a 3.0 GPA for all undergraduate work and demonstrate financial need. For more information, contact the Florida Department of Education at (850) 487-0049.

National Science Foundation NSF Graduate Fellowships
These fellowships are intended for students at or near the beginning of their graduate study in science, mathematics or engineering. NSF Minority Graduate Fellowships are for applicants who are members of an ethnic minority group underrepresented in the advanced levels of the U.S. science and engineering personnel pool, specifically, American Indian, African American, Hispanic, Native Alaskan (Eskimo or Aleut), or Native Pacific Islander (Polynesian or Micronesian). This fellowship is intended for students in the early stages of their graduate study in science, mathematics, or engineering. The deadline is early November. Contact the School of Graduate Studies for applications and information.

Ford Foundation Pre-doctoral and Dissertation Fellowship for Minorities
Ford Foundation Pre-doctoral and Dissertation Fellowships for Minorities are intended to increase the presence of underrepresented minorities on the nation's college and university faculties. The deadline is in November. For more information contact: The Fellowship Office, National Research Council, 2101 Constitution Avenue, NW; Washington, DC 20418.

Graduate Assistance in Areas of National Need (GAANN)
The major objective of this program is to recruit, retain and graduate qualified African American and other underrepresented minorities with doctoral degrees in areas of national need (STEM – Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics).

Eligibility Requirements include:

a. Admission to/or currently enrolled in a graduate program at FAMU in civil & environmental engineering, mechanical engineering, electrical engineering or medicinal chemistry;
b. Have financial need as determined by data submitted on the Free Application For Federal Student Aid (FAFSA); and

c. Be a citizen, national or permanent resident of the U.S.

**National Graduate Fellows Program (Jacob Javits Fellowships)**

This program is intended to assist students of superior ability to pursue full-time graduate study. For study in arts (including architecture, dramatic and creative arts, fine arts, and music); the humanities; the social sciences; or a multi-disciplinary program with a focus on one of these fields. Deadline: mid-February (may vary significantly from year to year). For more information contact: Dr. Allen Cissel, Jacob Javits Fellowship Program, U.S. Department of Education, 7th and D Streets, S.W., ROB-3, Washington, DC 20202-5152, (202) 708-9415. Contact the School of Graduate Studies for applications and information.

**UNIVERSITY FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES**

**Financial Assistance through the Office of Graduate Studies**

Although the assistance provided via the Graduate Dean’s office is not based merely upon need, applicants must, nevertheless, establish their eligibility to receive aid through their academic advisors, the respective college and school deans, and institute directors. Only fully-admitted, full-time graduate students shall be eligible to receive financial assistance from University funding sources. Most graduate students should be prepared to pay some of their graduate education costs by utilizing their own funds.

Financial assistance available to support graduate students through the School of Graduate Studies funding include the following:

**University Fellowships/Scholarships**

These fellowships are awarded annually on a competitive basis to full-time students of outstanding academic potential. Criteria include: Upper-division undergraduate GPA of at least 3.0. Applications and all supporting documents should be submitted no later than the drop and add period of each semester.

Applications are available from the individual college/unit graduate program coordinators.

**University Matriculation Waiver**

These waivers may be awarded to out-of-state students who are approved and classified as fellows based on academic excellence and scholarly potential. The amount of the waiver is determined by the
academic unit and/or the School of Graduate Studies. Awards are based on the availability of funds and numbers of registered matriculation hours.

**University Assistantships**

Assistantships are available through the School of Graduate Studies and the various academic units. Assistantships granted by the School of Graduate Studies are based upon nominations from graduate program coordinators and deans of the respective colleges, schools and institutes. Assistants must be full-time, fully admitted students who maintain good academic standing. Assistantships may normally be retained for the duration of the students' tenure so long as acceptable progress is being made toward graduation. All assistantship requests should be submitted to the School of Graduate Studies no later than two (2) weeks after the start of the semester.

**University Assistantship Tuition Waiver**

These waivers maybe awarded to out-of-state students. Assistantships are granted by nomination from program directors/coordinators and are based on academic excellence and scholarly potential. The amount of the waiver is determined by the academic unit and/or the School of Graduate Studies. Awards are based on the availability of funds and numbers of registered matriculation hours.

**University Thesis/Dissertation Incentive Awards**

These awards are available to students writing thesis/dissertation while pursuing the graduate degree. Awards are based on the number of hours registered for thesis/dissertation and satisfactory progress in the degree program. Nominations are made by major advisors and graduate program coordinators/directors to the School of Graduate Studies. The awards range from $250 to $1000 per semester and renewal is contingent upon the students' progress, in a timely fashion toward their degrees. Students must be officially registered for thesis/dissertation credits while receiving these awards.

**Graduate Feeder Program**

This program is an arrangement with 47 doctoral degree-granting institutions that have partnered with FAMU to ensure admission/financial aid packages annually for a limited number of qualified FAMU graduates who wish to pursue advanced degrees. Feeder institutions may provide tuition, room and board, waiver of the application fee, stipend for books and other substantial stipends and/or assistantships/fellowships to qualified students who wish to pursue the Ph.D. degree.