

Ronald E. McNair Scholars Graduate Fellowship

The McNair Graduate Fellowship is for outstanding McNair Scholars entering Ph.D. or MFA programs at Indiana University Bloomington. The McNair Graduate Fellowship is designed to encourage more underrepresented students to complete a Ph.D. or M.F.A. degree. The fellowship is offered to outstanding first-generation, low-income, or minority college graduates with the goal of increasing the pool of underrepresented students pursuing careers in post-secondary education and establishing role models for future minority students.

Eligibility Criteria:

1. Nominees must be **new students** proposing to enter a **Ph.D. or M.F.A.** program. Current IU students are only eligible if they are newly applying into a Ph.D. or M.F.A. program for the following fall term.
2. **Students must be nominated by their departments/schools.** In nominating the student, the department agrees to support and to train that student, and to encourage the student's participation in campus-wide mentoring activities, as appropriate. Departments must also agree to ensure that award recipients do not accept other graduate awards or employment during the period of funding, and to submit an annual progress report on behalf of the student.
3. Nominees should have outstanding academic backgrounds and excellent chances of obtaining their doctoral or M.F.A. degree. An **undergraduate GPA of at least 3.5** is strongly recommended, but post-baccalaureate coursework and other relevant experience will also be recognized.
4. Nominee must provide documentation of their undergraduate status as a Ronald E. McNair Scholar.
5. Nominee must be a U.S. citizen or permanent resident. International students are not eligible.
6. The M.F.A. degree program is an eligible field.
7. **The nominating department agrees to provide 2-4 years of graduate appointments (e.g., AIship, RAship or GAsip),** plus tuition and subsidized health insurance, turning the one year of stipend funding from the University Graduate School into a multi-year package. We encourage departments to put together 3-year packages for M.F.A. students, 4-year packages for students entering with a Master's degree, and 5-year packages for students entering with a Bachelor's degree.

Stipend and Benefits (see following pages for sample funding outlines):

1. The Ronald E. McNair Graduate Fellowship is a **multi-year award** designed to guarantee that the student receives full stipend, tuition and health insurance throughout the time they are working towards the Ph.D. or M.F.A. degree. **One year is a pure graduate fellowship** with no duties beyond continued progress towards the degree. During that year, the stipend level is \$19,000-\$25,000 depending on the discipline. The fellowship year stipend and subsidized health insurance are provided by the University Graduate School. Tuition is funded by the department, College or School. **For the remaining 2-4 years, funding is the responsibility of the Department,** and is derived from a combination of awards, scholarships, research and/or teaching assistantships.
2. Funds for a **recruiting visit** to Bloomington are also included to those who are offered the award.

*****Please see below for the typical funding template used for this award****

Nomination Materials

CONFIDENTIALITY – Each nomination is confidential and will only be viewed by the selection committee and by the professional staff who administer the awards.

The Chair of Graduate Admissions, Director of Graduate Studies, Departmental Chair or Associate Dean of Graduate Studies should complete and submit the following for each student nominee (**no more than 4 nominees**)

1. Secure approval from their dean of graduate studies (i.e. School of Education, School of Optometry—dean's approval is not required for programs in the College of Arts and Sciences).
2. **Rank** your department's nominations with #1 being the strongest candidate for the award(s) for which each student is eligible. Please list candidate names in alphabetic order. These nominations should be listed on the Nomination and Ranking Form included with the general guidelines for recruitment awards.
3. A **complete copy** of the student's **application for admission** to Indiana University.
Applications must include:
 1. Application form
 2. Statement of purpose
 3. Recommendation letters
 4. Transcripts and official GRE test scores
 5. McNair Scholars certification (if applicable)
4. A brief **supporting statement** (no more than 2 paragraphs) explaining: a) why this candidate is outstanding; b) how well matched the candidate's interests are to the strengths of the department; c) how the department recruited the student (how much contact and by which faculty); d) the likelihood the candidate will choose IU over competing offers (Please consider this last point carefully, as it is not beneficial to make award offers to students who are unlikely to accept the award and attend IU)
5. A brief **funding statement** (1-2 paragraphs) describing how the department plans to fund students in the years in which they are not receiving fellowship funds. This should include anticipated stipend amounts for SAAs, any available funding for further fellowship years, possible funding from the school/college, potential travel funds, and/or available funding through training or research grants. Please keep in mind that whatever funding the department provides must cover health insurance and a fee remission. When considering funding students in future years, 3-year packages should be developed for incoming M.F.A. students, 4-year packages for Ph.D.-seeking students entering with a Master's degree, and 5-year packages for Ph.D.-seeking students entering with a bachelor's degree. **Please see below for the typical funding templates for these awards.** The same funding outline may be used for each application, but please include it with each nomination packet.
6. A brief **department diversity statement**, describing the department's current diversity and any initiatives to increase recruitment and retention of a more diverse graduate student population. Each statement should be tailored to the particular fellowship the nomination is for. For example, what efforts has the department made to identify and to recruit members of underrepresented groups? What mentoring activities, professional-skills training, and career-development opportunities will be available to the student in your department?

Departmental nominations (1 pdf per student) for this award must be submitted online through the UGS Fellowships & Awards Canvas course no later than 4p.m. on the deadline (<https://iu.instructure.com/courses/1630134>).

To be added to the Canvas course, please send your IU username and department name to ugsawrd@indiana.edu.

For Departments NOT in the College of Arts and Sciences

Ronald E. McNair Scholars Graduate Fellowship

Year	Department/School/College	University Graduate School (Fellowship Year)
Year 1	Tuition remission of up to 30 credit hours	Fellowship with no SAA duties. Stipend award of \$19,000-\$25,000, plus subsidized health insurance
Year 2	Student Academic Appointment (SAA) with a stipend amount of _____, including up to 30 hours tuition remission and subsidized student health insurance.	
Year 3	Student Academic Appointment (SAA) with a stipend amount of _____, including up to 30 hours tuition remission and subsidized student health insurance.	
Year 4	Student Academic Appointment (SAA) with a stipend amount of _____, including up to 30 hours tuition remission and subsidized student health insurance.	
Year 5	Student Academic Appointment (SAA) with a stipend amount of _____, including up to 30 hours tuition remission and subsidized student health insurance.	

Student Academic Appointment (SAA) may be in the form of AI, GA, or RA positions.

The student 1) will be responsible for paying mandatory fees; 2) agrees not to accept other graduate scholarships or employment during the term of the fellowship; and 3) agrees to meet with deans in the University Graduate School during the term of the fellowship.

The department will encourage the student to participate in University Graduate School mentoring activities through the Graduate Mentoring Center that are both relevant and appropriate to their career aspirations and will submit an annual report on behalf of the student, summarizing their progress towards the degree.

For Departments in the College of Arts and Sciences

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Year 1	College of Arts and Sciences Tuition remission of up to 30 credit hours	University Graduate School (Fellowship Year) Fellowship with no SAA duties. Stipend award of \$20,000-\$25,000, plus subsidized health insurance.
Year 2	Department of «Dept_Applied» Student Academic Appointment (SAA), including up to 30 hours tuition remission and subsidized student health insurance.	College of Arts and Sciences \$5,000 supplemental stipend
Year 3	Student Academic Appointment (SAA) including up to 30 hours tuition remission and subsidized student health insurance.	\$5,000 supplemental stipend
Year 4	Student Academic Appointment (SAA) including up to 30 hours tuition remission and subsidized student health insurance.	\$5,000 supplemental stipend
Year 5	Student Academic Appointment (SAA) including up to 30 hours tuition remission and subsidized student health insurance.	\$5,000 supplemental stipend

Student Academic Appointment (SAA) may be in the form of AI, GA, or RA positions.

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