

Texas State Graduate Merit Fellowship

Description:

The Graduate College's *Texas State Graduate Merit Fellowships* are prestigious awards intended for use in recruiting master's students of the highest quality to Texas State University. These fellowships can be combined with graduate assistantships or departmental scholarships to create an attractive financial aid package for top quality applicants. Applicants cannot apply directly; instead, graduate advisors must identify and nominate eligible applicants.

Terms and Conditions:

The *Texas State Graduate Merit Fellowship* provides \$2,500 to new master's students for their first academic year of study (paid in early September, January, and June). Approximately 19 awards will be made each year. Fellows are expected to enroll in a minimum of 6 hours in both fall and spring semesters, and in 3 hours in the summer. No exceptions will be made. In addition, fellows must remain in good standing each semester and make acceptable progress towards the degree. Concurrent graduate assistantship support of up to 50% or supplemental scholarships and/or fellowships are allowed. Fellowship offers cannot be deferred.

Eligibility:

- Unconditional admission to a master's program at Texas State University
- No current or previous enrollment in a master's program at Texas State University
- Ranking as the top applicant to their program
- A highly competitive GPA
- A highly competitive GRE or GMAT (if required for admission to the program)
- Evidence of awards, recognition, honors, fellowships, or other indicators of future success
- Outstanding letters of recommendation
- Superior statement of purpose

Nomination Procedures:

Only the Graduate Advisor for the graduate program can nominate applicants. Each program can nominate one applicant. In order to nominate an applicant, the graduate advisor must write a 1 page nomination letter suitable for a lay audience and contextualizing

- the applicant's past academic success
- relevant experiences outside of the classroom
- indicators of future success and fit with the program
- the applicant's ranking as top or second applicant

An electronic copy of the letter of nomination must be sent to Janet Moseley at JanetMoseley@txstate.edu

In addition to the nomination letter, the Graduate College will make the student's GPA, the GRE score (if required by the program), letters of recommendation, the CV/résumé, and the statement of purpose available to the fellowship committee. If the program does not require these documents for admission, the Graduate Advisor must tell the student to send the following documents to JanetMoseley@txstate.edu by March 1, 2014 (5 p.m.):

- Statement of purpose
- Résumé showing evidence of awards, recognition, honors, fellowships, or other indicators of future success
- Three letters of recommendation (sent directly by the recommenders)

Nominations are due on March 1, 2014 (5 p.m.)

Selection Process and Criteria:

The Graduate College's Merit Fellowship Committee will make recommendations for both winners and alternates for the *Texas State Graduate Merit Fellowship*. Final decisions will be made by the Dean of the Graduate College. Doctoral and Regular Graduate Faculty representing the disciplinary colleges on campus will serve on the selection committee. The Merit Fellowship Committee will complete the selection process by April 1, 2014. Official award letters will be distributed to nominators shortly thereafter. Both department chairs and academic deans will also be informed of award winners. The Graduate College must be copied on all communications with award recipients.