

Endowed Graduate Fellowships & Access and Diversity Fellowships

2021-2022

Nomination for the 2021-2022 Endowed Graduate School Fellowships and Access and Diversity Fellowships¹ will open in January 2021. As in recent years, students will not apply for fellowships, but will be nominated by the department. Applicants may be aware of available fellowships, and may contact the department to be considered, but departments will be responsible for gathering and submitting application materials.

This document provides background information, award details, eligibility and application requirements for each of the fellowships being offered for the 2021-2022 fellowship cycle. Departments are encouraged to begin evaluating students in order to determine who to nominate.

Each department can nominate only one student per fellowship, and no student can be nominated for more than one of the following fellowships.

This document includes timelines for Endowed Graduate and Access and Diversity Fellowship submission and evaluation. Departments are encouraged to make nominations as soon as possible, in order to optimize the chances of recruiting the best students for these fellowships. A cross-disciplinary faculty review board will evaluate these applications based on the submitted material, as described below.

The Endowed Graduate and Access and Diversity Fellowships are divided into two categories: new students and returning students. Each of these categories has a different timeline for nomination and evaluation.

¹ Information about graduate fellowships distributed through colleges can be obtained by contacting college deans.

Fellowships for New Students

The fellowships on the following pages are for new students. These are students who are first-time enrollees in a graduate degree program in fall 2021. The relevant fellowships are:

- Isobel Griscom Graduate Fellowship
- Seaton Graduate Fellowship
- Herman E. Spivey Humanities Graduate Fellowships
- J. Wallace & Katie Dean Graduate Fellowships
- Lori Mayer Women's Graduate Fellowship
- Rowland Family Scholarship
- Access and Diversity Graduate Fellowship

Submission of materials to the Graduate School for evaluation will be done through the Slate admissions system.

Timeline

The timeline for fellowships for new students is the following:

January 11	Application in Slate will be open to upload nomination materials.
February 8	Deadline for departments to nominate students and submit all materials to the Graduate School. Deadline for fellowship nominees to be admitted.
February 15–March 1	Review of applications
March 8	Departments and awardees are notified and the website is updated.
April 15	Final deadline for student responses

Isobel Griscom Graduate School Fellowship

Isobel Griscom established this endowment through a gift made in 1971, and the fellowship is designed to promote opportunities for graduate students who demonstrate successful academic and professional performance. Griscom was born in St. Elmo, Tennessee, and was a revered and respected Associate Professor of English, initially with Chattanooga University, which later became part of the University of Tennessee System. A tireless advocate of women's rights, Griscom was active in the American Association of University Women and the League of Women Voters.

Award

This award will provide a total of \$2,000 for the 2021-2022 academic year. This amount will be paid in two equal awards of \$1,000 each; one at the beginning of the fall semester, and the other when the spring semester begins (see appendix A). This is a non-renewable fellowship and no portion of the fellowship may be deferred.

Eligibility Criteria

The program is open to graduate nominees who will be first-time enrollees in a graduate program in fall 2021 and who demonstrate successful academic and professional performance. Nominees must be admitted (or admitted conditionally) to a degree program by the Office of Graduate Admissions by **February 8, 2021**. This will be confirmed by the Graduate School. Recipients of this award must also be enrolled as a full-time student (see appendix B) for both fall 2021 and spring 2022.

Application Requirements

To nominate a candidate, the department must submit a letter of endorsement from the Director of Graduate Studies for the candidate's program by **February 8, 2021**. This letter should address the nominee's academic readiness and potential for success in the graduate program. See appendix C for instructions on submitting materials.

Seaton Graduate School Fellowship

The Seaton endowment honors the memory of Bruce Painter Seaton and Eva Woody Seaton, who were married in Knoxville on October 14, 1922, and were lifetime residents here. Mr. Seaton served in the Knoxville Fire Department for 32 years, retiring in 1967 as assistant chief. He passed away in 1975, and Mrs. Seaton died August 10, 1992. Their daughter, Dr. Jennie D. Seaton, and other family members, including grandchildren and great-grandchildren, established this fellowship, designed to promote opportunities for graduate students who demonstrate successful academic and professional performance.

Award

This award will provide a total of \$5,000 for the 2021-2022 academic year. This amount will be paid in two equal awards of \$2,500 each; one at the beginning of the fall semester, and the other when the spring semester begins (see appendix A). This is a non-renewable fellowship and no portion of the fellowship may be deferred.

Eligibility Criteria

The program is open to graduate nominees who will be first-time enrollees in a graduate program in fall 2021 and who demonstrate successful academic and professional performance. Nominees must be admitted (or admitted conditionally) to a degree program by the Office of Graduate Admissions by **February 8, 2021**. This will be confirmed by the Graduate School. Recipients of this award must also be enrolled as a full-time student (see appendix B) for both fall 2021 and spring 2022. **Nominees must also be on at least a 25% graduate assistantship.**

Application Requirements

To nominate a candidate, the department must submit a letter of endorsement from the Director of Graduate Studies for the candidate's program by **February 8, 2021**. This letter should address the nominee's academic readiness and potential for success in the graduate program. See appendix C for instructions on submitting materials.

Herman E. Spivey Humanities Graduate Fellowships

Established in 1990 with an endowment, the Herman E. Spivey Humanities Graduate Fellowship Program honors the former Vice-President of Academic Affairs who served from 1960 to 1968. Spivey fostered academic excellence and diversity at UT. These awards will be offered to selected nominees in arts and humanities programs who have excelled in undergraduate work and shown professional potential.

Award

This award will provide a total of \$5,000 for the 2021-2022 academic year. This amount will be paid in two equal awards of \$2,500 each; one at the beginning of the fall semester, and the other when the spring semester begins (see appendix A). This fellowship is renewable for a total of three years, upon the endorsement of the department and approval of the Graduate School.

Eligibility Criteria

The program is open to graduate students who will be first-time enrollees in a graduate program in fall 2021 in a department in the arts or humanities (including Art, English, Modern Foreign Languages and Literatures, History, Music, Philosophy, and Theatre). Nominees must be admitted (or admitted conditionally) to a degree program by the Office of Graduate Admissions by **February 8, 2021**. This will be confirmed by the Graduate School. U.S. citizens, permanent residents, and international nominees are eligible. Full-time registration is required for fall 2021 and spring 2022 (see appendix B), and the **nominee must be the recipient of an assistantship of at least 25% FTE.**

Application Requirements

To nominate a candidate, the department must submit a letter of endorsement from the Director of Graduate Studies for the candidate's program by **February 8, 2021**. This letter should address the nominee's academic readiness and potential for success in the graduate program. See appendix C for instructions on submitting materials.

J. Wallace & Katie Dean Graduate Fellowships

The J. Wallace and Katie Dean Graduate Fellowship Program was established in 2005 through an endowment provided by the Dean Trust. The Deans were longtime friends of the University of Tennessee and active community leaders in Knoxville. These awards will be offered to selected nominees who have excelled in their undergraduate work and who show promise for outstanding graduate work in excellent and demanding programs at UT. The Deans were particularly interested in using this fellowship to recruit “extraordinary students who have undergraduate degrees from top private and public universities.”

Award

This award will provide a total of \$10,000 for the 2021–2022 academic year. This amount will be paid in two equal awards of \$5,000 each; one at the beginning of the fall semester, and the other when the spring semester begins (see appendix A). This is a non-renewable fellowship and no portion of the fellowship may be deferred.

Eligibility Criteria

The program is open to graduate students who will be first-time enrollees in a graduate program in fall 2021 at UT. Nominees must be admitted (or admitted conditionally) to a degree program by the Office of Graduate Admissions by **February 8, 2021**. This will be confirmed by the Graduate School. U.S. citizens, permanent residents, and international nominees are eligible. Full-time registration is required for fall 2021 and spring 2022 (see appendix B), and the **nominee must be the recipient of an assistantship of at least 25% FTE**.

Although this fellowship is open to nominees from all colleges and programs, special consideration will be given to nominees from programs in the areas of physical and biological sciences.

Application Requirements

To nominate a candidate, the department must submit a letter of endorsement from the Director of Graduate Studies for the candidate’s program by **February 8, 2021**. This letter should address the nominee’s academic background, accomplishments, and potential for success in the graduate program. See appendix C for instructions on submitting materials.

Lori Mayer Women's Graduate Fellowship

The Lori Mayer Re-Entry Women's Graduate Fellowship honors the memory of Lori Irene Mayer, who was a 1978 accounting graduate of UT. At the time of her death in October 1993, Ms. Mayer was controller at Whittle Communications, Inc. The fund for this fellowship more than doubled in size when a gift was received from her estate. The fellowship was designed to provide personal encouragement and financial support for returning adult women students.

Award

This award will provide a total of \$3,000 for the 2021-2022 academic year. This amount will be paid in two equal awards of \$1,500 each; one at the beginning of the fall semester, and the other when the spring semester begins (see appendix A). This is a non-renewable fellowship and no portion of the fellowship may be deferred.

Eligibility Criteria

Women are eligible for this fellowship. Applicants must be either (1) first-time enrollees in a UT graduate or professional degree program in fall 2021 who have not been enrolled in a degree seeking program for the last five years, or (2) a newly returning graduate or professional student who has not been enrolled for at least 5 years. Applicants must be admitted to a degree program by the Office of Graduate Admissions by **February 8, 2021**. This will be confirmed by the Graduate School. Applicants should be individuals who demonstrate significant potential to contribute to the Graduate School's educational mission and its diversity-related goals. Recipients of this award must also be enrolled as a full-time student (see appendix B) for both fall 2021 and spring 2022.

Application Requirements

To nominate a candidate, the department must submit a letter of endorsement from the Director of Graduate Studies for the candidate's program by **February 8, 2021**. This letter should address the nominee's potential for success in the graduate program. See appendix C for instructions on submitting materials.

Rowland Family Scholarship

The Rowland Family Scholarship was established from a generous gift by Lafairish G. Rowland, a long-time resident of Knoxville, TN. This award is limited to students in math, science and engineering. Students with limited resources are given priority consideration.

Award

This award will provide a total of \$5,000 for the 2021-2022 academic year. This amount will be paid in two equal awards of \$2,500 each; one at the beginning of the fall semester, and the other when the spring semester begins (see appendix A). This is a non-renewable fellowship and no portion of the fellowship may be deferred.

Eligibility Criteria

The award is open to graduate student nominees in math, science and engineering who will be first-time enrollees in a graduate program in fall 2021 and who demonstrate successful academic and professional performance. Nominees must be admitted (or admitted conditionally) to a degree program by the Office of Graduate Admissions by **February 8, 2021**. This will be confirmed by the Graduate School. Recipients of this award must be enrolled as a full-time student (see appendix B) for both fall 2021 and spring 2022.

Application Requirements

To nominate a candidate, the department must submit a letter of endorsement from the Director of Graduate Studies for the candidate's program by **February 8, 2021**. The letter should address the nominee's academic readiness and potential for success in the graduate program. If the student has limited resources to support himself/herself, that should be noted in the letter of endorsement. See appendix C for instructions on submitting materials.

Access and Diversity Graduate Fellowship

The Graduate School seeks to recruit, enroll, and retain qualified students who will benefit from educational and social interactions with peers who come from different backgrounds and who have different life experiences, perspectives, and goals. The Graduate School also seeks to prepare its students with an array of educational experiences for dealing effectively in an increasingly diverse and global workforce. This graduate fellowship program is designed to achieve these goals. The wide-ranging attributes that will contribute to the educational mission of the Graduate School include but are not limited to ethnic and cultural backgrounds or life experiences, career goals, social or economic disadvantage, disability status, age, race, and sex.

Award

This award will provide a total of \$15,000 for the 2021–2022 academic year. This amount will be paid in two equal awards of \$7,500 each; one at the beginning of the fall semester, and the other when the spring semester begins (see appendix A). Departments are encouraged to provide the nominee with a graduate assistantship including a tuition waiver. In the event that the department does not offer an assistantship, the Graduate School will provide tuition and health insurance. This is a non-renewable fellowship and no portion of the fellowship may be deferred.

Eligibility Criteria

The fellowship is open to first-time enrollees who have been admitted to a graduate degree program at UT for fall 2021 and who demonstrate significant potential to contribute to the Graduate School's educational mission and its diversity-related goals. Competition is open to U.S. citizens, permanent residents, and international applicants. Employees are not eligible. Applicants must be admitted to a degree program by the Office of Graduate Admissions by **February 8, 2021**. Admission will be confirmed by the Graduate School. Recipients of this award must also be enrolled as full-time students (see appendix B) for both fall 2021 and spring 2022 semesters.

Application Requirements

To nominate a candidate, the department must submit a letter of endorsement from the Director of Graduate Studies for the candidate's program by **February 8, 2021**. This letter should address the nominee's potential for success in the graduate program and how they contribute to the diversity of the department. See appendix C for instructions on submitting materials.

Fellowships for Returning Students

The fellowships on the following pages are for returning students. These are students who are currently enrolled in a graduate degree program and will be continuing their degree program in the 2021-2022 academic year. The relevant fellowships are:

- Shipley-Swann Graduate Fellowship
- Mary Phipps Shepherd Graduate Fellowship
- Oscar Roy Ashley Graduate Fellowship
- Yates Dissertation Fellowships

Submission of materials to the Graduate School for evaluation will be done through the Slate admissions system.

Timeline

The timeline for fellowships for returning students is the following:

January 11	Application in Slate will be open to upload nomination materials.
March 22	Deadline for departments to nominate students and submit all materials to the Graduate School
March 24-April 7	Review of applications
April 14	Departments and awardees are notified and the website is updated.
May 3	Final deadline for student responses

Shipley-Swann Graduate School Fellowship

R. Bruce Shipley and Sara Swann Shipley of Johnson City, Tennessee established five charitable remainder trusts with the University of Tennessee between 1989 and 1999. When Mr. Shipley passed away in 2002, Mrs. Shipley terminated the trust and activated the Shipley-Swann Endowment. This fellowship is to award returning students who demonstrate academic excellence.

Award

This award will provide a total of \$5,000 for the 2021-2022 academic year. This amount will be paid in two equal awards of \$2,500 each; one at the beginning of the fall semester, and the other when the spring semester begins (see appendix A). This is a non-renewable fellowship and no portion of the fellowship year may be deferred.

Eligibility Criteria

The program is open to students who are currently enrolled in a graduate degree program and will be continuing their degree program in the 2021-2022 academic year. Nominees must demonstrate academic success and professional promise. Recipients of this award must also be enrolled as a full-time student (see Appendix B) for both fall 2021 and spring 2022.

Application Requirements

To nominate a candidate, the department must submit a letter of endorsement from the Director of Graduate Studies for the candidate's program by **March 22, 2021**. This letter should address the nominee's academic success and professional promise. See appendix C for instructions on submitting materials.

Mary Phipps Shepherd Graduate School Fellowship

Mary Phipps Shepherd, a native of East Tennessee, graduated from the College of Education in 1932. While she was a student at UT, she served on the editorial staffs of the *Volunteer*, the *Orange and White*, and the *Mugwump*. She was a member of the Women Student Activities Council, the Panhellenic Council and Delta Delta Delta Sorority. Because of her great love for her alma mater, the University of Tennessee, she established this fellowship to help deserving students further their education.

Award

This award will provide a total of \$1,000 for the 2021-2022 academic year. This amount will be paid in two equal awards of \$500 each; one at the beginning of the fall semester, and the other when the spring semester begins (see appendix A). This is a non-renewable fellowship and no portion of the fellowship year may be deferred.

Eligibility Criteria

The program is open to students who are currently enrolled in a graduate program and will be continuing in their degree program in the 2021-2022 academic year. Nominees must demonstrate academic success and professional promise. Recipients of this award must also be enrolled as a full-time student (see appendix B) for both fall 2021 and spring 2022.

Application Requirements

To nominate a candidate, the department must submit a letter of endorsement from the Director of Graduate Studies for the candidate's program by **March 22, 2021**. This letter should address the nominee's academic success and professional promise. See appendix C for instructions on submitting materials.

Oscar Roy Ashley Graduate School Fellowship

Oscar Roy Ashley was a 1927 graduate of the University of Tennessee, Knoxville, receiving a BA in English from the College of Liberal Arts (now known as the College of Arts and Sciences). After his death in 2001, his will stipulated the use of funds to create a campus-wide fellowship fund for UT. This fellowship is for deserving and talented returning students who have demonstrated excellence in academic performance.

Award

This award will provide a total of \$4,000 for the 2021–2022 academic year. This amount will be paid in two equal awards of \$2,000 each; one at the beginning of the fall semester, and the other when the spring semester begins (see appendix A). This is a non-renewable fellowship and no portion of the fellowship year may be deferred.

Eligibility Criteria

The program is open to students who are currently enrolled in a graduate program and will be continuing in their degree program in the 2021–2022 academic year. Nominees must demonstrate academic success and professional promise. Recipients of this award must also be enrolled as a full-time student (see appendix B) for both fall 2021 and spring 2022.

Application Requirements

To nominate a candidate, the department must submit a letter of endorsement from the Director of Graduate Studies for the candidate's program by **March 22, 2021**. This letter should address the nominee's academic success and professional promise. See appendix C for instructions on submitting materials.

Yates Dissertation Fellowships

The Yates Graduate Fellowship Endowment is a legacy of the generosity of the estate of Arthur E. Yates (1915–1977), former president of Yates Bleachery Company and a dedicated friend of the University of Tennessee. The Yates Graduate Fellowship Endowment was established in June 2000 to encourage, recognize, and support outstanding graduate students. Endowment from the Yates estate provides awards to doctoral students completing their dissertations.

Award

This award will provide a total of \$10,000 for the 2021–2022 academic year. This amount will be paid in two equal awards of \$5,000 each; one at the beginning of the fall semester, and the other when the spring semester begins (see appendix A). This is a non-renewable fellowship and no portion of the fellowship year may be deferred.

Eligibility Criteria

A candidate must be a UT graduate student in good standing who will have completed admission to candidacy for the doctoral degree and reached dissertation stage or admitted to candidacy by fall 2021. Recipients of this award must also be enrolled in dissertation hours for both fall 2021 and spring 2022 semesters. Recipients of this award may not be full-time employees of the University of Tennessee.

Application Requirements

To nominate a candidate, the department must submit a letter of endorsement from the nominee's major professor by **March 22, 2021**. This letter should address the nominee's potential for success in completing their dissertation during the 2021–2022 academic year and the way in which this award will assist in completing the dissertation during the academic year. This letter should also address the student's academic success and professional promise. See appendix C for instructions on submitting materials.

Appendix A: Financial Aid

Fellowships will be disbursed to the awardee's MyUTK (myutk.utk.edu) account together with any other financial aid and scholarships that the awardee may be receiving. If there are any unpaid charges at the time of disbursement, the fellowship will be applied towards those outstanding charges. If any excess funds are generated from this award, those monies will be made available approximately one week after the funds are disbursed. Being signed up for direct deposit in a MyUTK account can assist in avoiding any delays. The award may be combined with other financial aid up to UT's full estimated cost of attendance, which includes standard amounts for tuition, fees, and averages for housing, food, books, and personal costs related to attending college. If the combined financial aid, including the fellowship, exceeds UT's estimated costs, the amount of any other financial aid may be reduced because of the fellowship. For questions related to financial aid, please contact OneStop (onestop@utk.edu).

Please note that this fellowship will be reported on the awardee's annual 1098-T form and may have tax implications. For more information, the awardee should consult with a tax preparer or visit www.irs.gov.

Appendix B: Full-Time Status

In order to be considered a full-time student for federal financial aid, a student must be enrolled in 9 credit hours. For the purposes of the Graduate Endowed Fellowships and Access and Diversity Fellowships, a student without an assistantship or with a 25% assistantship must be enrolled in 9 credit hours. A student with a 50% assistantship is considered full-time when enrolled in 6 credit hours.

Appendix C: Nomination Process

In order to efficiently process nominations, the Graduate School will use the Slate admissions/recruitment system. The process for this is still being finalized, and this document will be updated with step-by-step instructions for how to nominate an admitted or current student for one of the fellowships in this document.