

Friday, December 10, 2021

The Graduate School is pleased to announce this year's call for nominations for the Dr. W. Burghardt Turner Fellowship to recruit to Stony Brook students of high academic promise from groups historically underrepresented in graduate study and the professoriate.

***Note: Graduate programs that submit one or more Turner nominations may make one additional offer beyond their number of authorized offers under the backstopping process.*** A program that is allocated 5 lines with an offer ratio of 3 will be allowed to make 15 offers in addition to their top Turner nominee. ***This means that your top Turner nominee will not count against your authorized offers. This does not mean, however, that your program will receive an additional TA line if a Turner Fellowship is awarded. If your program over-recruits, your extra lines will have to be paid back via the backstopping process.*** The purpose of this fellowship is to allow you to go after top diverse applicants recognizing that the conversion of such offers is often lower.

We anticipate extending 30-35 offers to yield 15-20 new Turner fellows for the fall of 2022.

PLEASE NOTE! CONTINUING FROM 2020 & 2021:

We will continue the graduate student stipend appointment processing procedure which allows the departments to no longer fill out the Turner supplement amount on the state appointment form or fill out a separate RF Fellowship form for the Turner portion of the stipend package. The Graduate School will be disbursing the supplement as a financial aid post via the student's SOLAR account, in increments over each semester. For students who are in a stand-alone, Turner-supported fellowship year (usually in their final year), the Graduate School will continue to process their appointment paperwork as a full Graduate Assistant. We will continue to provide detailed procedural information as they arise.

**Eligibility and Award Structure**

1. Nominees must be US Citizens or Permanent Residents who will contribute to the diversity of the student body.
2. The focus of the Turner Fellowship is to support students in pursuit of terminal degrees, therefore doctoral applicants are given highest consideration for awards. A very limited number of master's fellowship nominees will be considered with strong justification.
3. The State University of New York offers these graduate fellowships to students who have been admitted to graduate or professional study and who will contribute to the diversity of the student body, especially those who can demonstrate that they have overcome a disadvantage or other impediment to success in higher education. Thus, programs may consider nominating students who are of a race or ethnicity underrepresented in its discipline or profession, but awards may not be made solely on that basis. If you have any questions regarding the eligibility of an applicant or concerning the Turner Program, please feel free to contact us at [TurnerFellowships@stonybrook.edu](mailto:TurnerFellowships@stonybrook.edu).

The duration of the Turner Fellowship award is five years for doctoral students, four years for medical school students, three years for MFA students, and up to two years for terminal master's students (contingent upon length of the degree program). Students who have previously earned a master's degree or who are currently enrolled in a master's degree program and are applying to transition to the doctoral program are eligible for nomination.

The Turner Fellowship provides \$50,000 (\$40,000 for MD, \$30,000 for the MFA and \$20,000 for terminal, two year masters degrees) in supplemental support to attract the best domestic applicants from underrepresented groups paid as a supplement to program-level support (assistantship, stipend, tuition scholarship, etc.).

Students nominated for doctoral degree fellowships must have already received an offer of admission to the program with full support. Nomination for the Turner Fellowship by the program implies agreement to provide a minimum of a ½ TA/GA/RA line, plus full tuition scholarship for the duration of the fellowship period. **Departments are strongly encouraged to maintain full TA line support to Turner awardees and not use the Turner to reduce or offset your program's cost.** In recent years some doctoral programs have found it preferable to divide the Turner supplement support differently among the five year period. To that end, the Graduate School is open to alternative methods of configuring funding to recruit Turner Fellows in cases where the standard model has not yielded success.

### **Deadlines**

All nominees must be identified within SLATE by **Friday, January 28<sup>th</sup>, 2022** (see 1a below for instructions if your program does not utilize the Graduate Instance of SLATE). Complete nomination dockets are due by close of business on **Monday, January 31<sup>st</sup>**.

The selection committee will review nominations in February, and an announcement of award recipients will be sent via email by February 28<sup>th</sup>.

If your doctoral degree program's deadline date for submission of applications that will be considered for financial support is later than January 15, please contact the Turner Fellowship office.

### **Nominations Procedures and Materials:**

A maximum of **Five** nominations will be considered by any one graduate program or department. Nomination materials must be submitted electronically to "[TurnerFellowships@stonybrook.edu](mailto:TurnerFellowships@stonybrook.edu)" by the Graduate Program Director **before the close of business on the deadline dates indicated.**

1. Identify the nominee(s) using the fellowship nomination button for "Turner Fellowship" in SLATE (see enclosed instructions).
  - a. Programs that do not fall under the Graduate Program instance in SLATE must email the names of intended nominees to [TurnerFellowships@stonybrook.edu](mailto:TurnerFellowships@stonybrook.edu) by the deadline date indicated above.
2. Letter of nomination written/endorsed by the Graduate Program Director. The letter must do the following:
  - a. Describe the criteria the program employs, beyond grade point average and course performance, in making admissions decisions and why this student is considered a top candidate for the program
  - b. Indicate what aspect of the nominee's experience and/or plans prompted the program to nominate for an award seeking to diversify the doctoral student body at Stony Brook and broaden participation of underrepresented groups in research and the academy
  - c. Describe in detail any aspects of the nominee file for which the program wishes to provide additional context
  - d. Provide any information on departmental plans or programs available for supporting the student's first year success
3. A copy of the nominee's Offer of Admission Letter and Offer of Financial Support signed by the Graduate Program Director. **Programs are encouraged to provide comparative data with peer institutions as a reference point for comparison of the Turner offer.**
4. If unavailable in SLATE, submission of relevant transcripts and copies of the nominee's three letters of recommendation from their application to graduate study



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**Following receipt of items 1-4 from the program, the Center for Inclusive Education will reach out to Turner Fellowship Award nominees directly to obtain the following application components:**

5. Copy of the nominee's resume or curriculum vita
6. A one-page personal statement from the nominee stating the ways in which the candidate believes that they identify with the Mission and Goals of the Turner Fellowship Award. The Turner Office will communicate to the nominee the guidelines and instructions for the Turner personal statement.

**Student submitted materials must be received by Friday, February 4th.** Please note that since items 5 and 6 will be collected directly by the Turner program it is of utmost importance that programs follow the guidelines detailed above: nominees must have already received their offer of admission and their offer letter from the program before the January 31<sup>st</sup> deadline.

If you encounter problems compiling or sending the electronic nomination package, please contact Elizanne Warren-Russell at [TurnerFellowships@stonybrook.edu](mailto:TurnerFellowships@stonybrook.edu).