Emory Graduate Diversity Fellowship 2015-2016
for students admitted in the spring of 2015

Nominations due:
February 16 (Humanities and Social Sciences) / February 23 (Natural Sciences)
Selection takes place:
February 24-25 (Humanities and Social Sciences) / March 3-4 (Natural Sciences)

Posted November 25, 2014

The Laney Graduate School will award six or more Emory Graduate Diversity Fellowships (EGDFs) to students entering doctoral programs in fall 2015. The EGDF Fellowship is a highly prestigious entering student fellowship. Nominees should show exceptional promise as future leaders in their fields. The fellowship covers tuition and fees and provides a $5,000 supplement to the regular program stipend. Awards may be renewed annually for up to five years of study, contingent upon satisfactory academic performance. (In programs with shorter terms of LGS direct stipend support, fellows will continue to receive the EGDF supplement after the LGS direct support expires.)

The EGDF is intended to promote the diversity of the graduate student body. We recognize that students from groups not traditionally represented in the academy bring new perspectives that enrich the fields of study and enhance the educational experience of all students. The EGDF is awarded to prospective students who are U.S. citizens or permanent residents, and whose enrollment would enhance the diversity of intellectual dialog and contribute to the educational benefits of diversity within a program or the University as a whole, based on their racial, ethnic, socioeconomic or experiential background and/or the students’ gender, sexual orientation, or disability status.

• Each program/division may nominate five or more candidates, depending on the number of graduate school funded lines in the entering cohort.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Number of LGS funded lines in entering cohort</th>
<th>Number of nominations</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1-10</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11-20</td>
<td>7</td>
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<tr>
<td>21-40</td>
<td>10</td>
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<tr>
<td>41+</td>
<td>14</td>
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• Unlike the Woodruff fellowship, the EGDF provides an additional line to the program.
• All nominees must be offered admission to the program, regardless of the outcome of the EGDF nomination.
• EGDFs will be selected by two committees, one for the natural sciences, and one for the humanities and social sciences. Programs that straddle divisions may nominate in either or both pools (the limit above applies to the combined total).

Evaluation Criteria
As you put together nominations, consider how the selection committee will evaluate the nominees. Before the committee meets, each committee member will complete a preliminary rating sheet, rating the nominees by assigning points in these categories, listed in order of relative importance (see top of page 2):


<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Criterion</th>
<th>Description</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Creates, enhances or sustains a diverse educational and intellectual experience in the program or the graduate school</td>
<td>The degree to which the student’s participation in the program and involvement in program intellectual and academic life enhances the diversity and the depth and range of the intellectual environment of the program, the Graduate School and/or the University.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Academic Performance and Preparation</td>
<td>Quality of the applicant’s academic performance and the degree to which the applicant is prepared to undertake the PhD program.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Available and Accessible Mentoring</td>
<td>How well do the applicant’s stated interests correlate to the foci of the program and is there likely to be adequate depth of mentoring to the applicant within the program? This criterion should be explicitly addressed in the program letter of support.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Preparation for Research, Teaching or Leadership</td>
<td>How well is the applicant prepared to undertake scholarly research, teaching or analogous leadership activities in the chosen discipline? Evidence may come from the letters of recommendation, past experience, and the statement of purpose.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Distinctive Factors</td>
<td>Are there other aspects of the applicant’s background that make him/her particularly unique and qualified? Examples might include a unique research area, previous research or work experience.</td>
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</table>

Graduate school staff compiles an overall ranking by combining all the committee members’ rating sheets. That preliminary ranking is used as the starting point for the committee’s deliberations, but does not by itself determine the outcome. Neither individual members nor the committee are bound by the rating results, and additional distinctions may be considered in the committee’s overall determination.

**Program Letter of Support**

Each nomination should include a letter that details the criteria upon which the program recommends awarding the EGDF. Please submit one file per letter of support.

Each letter of support should come from the Director of Graduate Studies, but the substance may be contributed by a faculty member who best knows the candidate’s file and background. That may mean, for example, a two-sentence note from the DGS nominating the applicant, followed by a substantial letter written by another faculty member.

The selection committee relies heavily on program letters in assessing nominees. The following guidance is based on recommendations from selection committee members who have read many letters.

- Use the program letter of support to explain how the nominee would contribute to diversity. The manner in which a fellowship nominee might contribute to the diversity of a program or discipline differs substantially across the graduate school. Do not assume that selection committee members will be aware of the situation in your program or discipline, nationally or locally.
- Non-substantive praise is not helpful, and may act against a candidate by failing to provide the committee an appropriate frame of reference for evaluating the candidate.
- Committee members are asked to assess files based on the criteria listed above. The most helpful letters directly address the criteria, and help the committee see what parts of the application reveal the strengths of the nominee.
- Committee members are rarely in the same field as you and your nominees. What you see as an obvious strength may not stand out to the committee members, so a brief explanation is helpful.
- Committee members look to program letters to help them assess “Available and Accessible Mentoring.” Indicate which Emory faculty, library, or laboratory resources would particularly support the nominee’s proposed course of study, and comment on how well the nominee’s background and interest fit with the program’s resources and aspirations.
- The strongest letters of nominations draw from interviews, in person or by phone.
- Longer letters are not always better. It is not necessary to summarize the applicant’s file, since letters are always read in conjunction with that file.
ADMIT Submission
Nominations will be submitted using the ADMIT online application management system.

1. In each nominee’s ADMIT record, upload the program nomination letter. The field for uploading is located on the Decision tab, in the Admissions Fellowships area.
2. Select each nominee and move his or her record to the appropriate EGDF pool (located in the Admissions Fellowships pool).

If you have questions about using ADMIT, please contact Tammy Coleman, tammy.coleman@emory.edu.

Before you Submit
Make sure each nominee’s application file is complete. If credentials are missing for a nominee, contact him or her directly to request the missing items in time for consideration for the EGDF.

Questions?
Contact Ulf Nilsson, at 727-6999 or unilsso@emory.edu.

Deadline for Acceptance of Award: April 15
Fellow-designates will be informed that the nationally recognized deadline for acceptance of awards is April 15, and we will not pressure them to make a decision before that. Nevertheless, we do ask that fellows tell us as soon as they have reached a decision. If possible, we would appreciate knowing the status of their deliberations by April 1.

No fellowship offer will be held beyond April 15, except in exceptional circumstances and at the discretion of the Dean.