

Call for Applications

Flagship Doctoral Research Fellowships

The University of Maine is pleased to announce the third call for the Flagship Doctoral Research Fellowship program. This is the third year of funding for this initiative aimed at bolstering the strength and diversity of doctoral training at the University of Maine. Specifically intended to add additional Research Assistant lines – and associated doctoral student enrollment – this program will award up-to-5 doctoral research awards with up-to-\$40,000 of funding for each over 2 years, to provide for stipend, tuition, health, and research expenses.

Selection priority will be given to non-STEM applicants in an effort to diversify the institution's doctoral student headcount in alignment with broad University research growth objectives. Additionally, the inclusion and participation of other UMS faculty on students' committees will be a funding priority. Faculty supervising doctoral students from *all disciplines* are encouraged to apply. Mentorship of undergraduate research learning experiences and impact tracking are expected to be embedded within these appointments.

Programs may submit up to 3 applications for the Flagship Fellowships through the graduate program coordinator (one per research mentor). Fellowships may be for a period of up-to-two years.

Applicants to this program are *faculty research mentors*, currently working within PhD-granting departments and units. The **deadline** for applications is **October 20, 2022**. Applications will be reviewed by a committee including representatives from the Graduate School Executive Committee.

Applications should be submitted by the graduate program coordinator through the [InfoReady](https://umaine.infoready4.com/) Platform: <https://umaine.infoready4.com/>

To apply, please prepare the following materials:

- Letter of Application (not more than three pages): briefly describe the doctoral program within which the Research Fellow will be enrolled; the likely composition of the advising committee, including the participation of other UMS faculty, a funding priority; departmental plans for the recruitment of doctoral students, to include broadening participation in the research enterprise; the research project(s) to which the Fellow will be assigned; any existing allied support – internal or external – for the Fellow; plans for the continued support of the Fellow past the fellowship period; as well as an account of how the addition of the Research Fellow will enhance, extend, or enrich existing research activity, including undergraduate research mentorship. This letter should also contain the current doctoral student headcount of the applicant's program along with the prospective headcount should the Fellowship be awarded. The level of use of existing University funds to support doctoral students and the potential for a Flagship Fellowship to extend available support for doctoral students will be factors in the award decisions.
- Detailed Doctoral Mentoring Plan (two pages): this plan should describe the faculty applicant's experience with doctoral student mentoring and/or other student research mentoring (including degree completion statistics where available); the Fellow's physical location and relevant facilities; plans for supervision and guidance (including the participation of other UMS faculty); available and/or required research and professional development opportunities; as well as any plans for co-advising or co-mentoring (please include a letter of support from prospective co-mentors, documenting this commitment).
- A current academic CV or biographical sketch of the research mentor (not more than 4 pages)
- A Letter of Support from the department chair or senior unit administrator.
- (Optional) Letter of Support from prospective co-mentors

The Flagship Doctoral Research Fellowship will observe the following guidelines:

1. This Fellowship program is intended to bolster recruitment of exceptional doctoral students in varied disciplines. As such Fellowships may be awarded only to students *beginning in the summer/fall following the award of the Fellowship*.
2. Fellowships are intended to enrich our doctoral-level research activities *as well as* to improve our standing in third-party research classifications, including the Carnegie Classifications. As such, the Fellow is expected to be a full-time student for the duration of their doctoral studies. Preference will be given to faculty applicants with a track record of receiving external support as well as mentoring students in the timely completion of their doctoral degree.
3. Fellowships will start between June 1, 2023 and September 1, 2023. By the following April 1st, the faculty applicant should submit a report documenting the successful recruitment of the Fellow and their satisfactory progress towards degree over their first year.
4. Fellowship support is to be used in consecutive semesters. Any interruption in the fellowship period must first be approved by the Vice President for Research and Dean of the Graduate School.
5. Supplemental funding beyond that offered by the Flagship Doctoral Research Fellowship may be provided by the faculty applicant's home department or unit. However Fellows may not take on more than 10 hours per week of additional employment of any kind above the fellowship commitment. Such additional employment should be related to the Fellow's doctoral research.