



# The Graduate Presidential Distinguished Research Fellowship

## THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT SAN ANTONIO GUIDELINES

**Application Deadline: March 21, 2016**

### Announcement:

The Graduate School is pleased to announce *The Graduate School Presidential Distinguished Research Fellowship program*. The Presidential Distinguished Research Fellowship (PDRF) is jointly sponsored by the Office of the President (OP) and the Office of the Vice President for Research (OVPR) and administered by the Graduate School at The University of Texas at San Antonio (UTSA). This incentive program is designed to promote the recruitment and retention of high-quality doctoral students to enhance the research and training mission of UTSA. Funding from this program is designated for *full-time* students with a high level of demonstrated academic success and research distinction who are seeking a *doctoral degree in one of the following areas of research excellence at UTSA*.

1. Advanced Materials
2. Integrated Biomedicine (Human Immunology and Infectious Diseases, Neurosciences, and Regenerative and Molecular Medicine)
3. Cyber, Cloud, Computing and Data Analytics
4. Social and Educational Transformation
5. Community Sustainability and Critical Infrastructure

### Award Overview:

The fellowship will be guaranteed to the student for up to 4 years if he/she meets the following prescribed academic and other standards: (1) overall academic excellence of a 3.0 or better on a 4.0 scale; (2) articulated research goals and their match to those of the department or program to which s/he has applied and its linkage to UTSA areas of research excellence; (3) leadership potential; and (4) contribution to a diverse educational community.

The students' strength for criteria 3 and 4 will be determined by their participation in the activities of the Student Engagement and Professional Development Center in the Graduate School. The fellowship will pay \$10,000 each academic year to the selected student. This amount will be *in addition* to what the department/college normally offers as support to their doctoral students. Departmental support for the student at the full standard rate is a required pre-requisite for PDRF support. Colleges nominating potential incoming students for the PDRF will have to agree to cost share (50% or \$5,000) for the fellowship for years 2-4 of each PDRF supported student.

**Eligibility:**

This award is made to incoming doctoral students who demonstrate strong academic preparation for a doctoral program in one of the above mentioned areas of study. Students will have to remain enrolled for at least 9 hours per long semester to be eligible for PDRF support. Students will have to meet the prescribed academic and engagement standards outlined above to remain eligible for this award. The nominating college/ department must commit to cost share (50% or \$5,000) for the fellowship for years 2-4 of each PDRF supported student in addition to the required full standard rate provided to their doctoral students.

**Application Guidelines:**

The attached fellowship nomination application must be completed by a faculty member in the student's program of study. The following items must be submitted as part of the nomination packet:

- 1) Copy of transcripts from all previously attended institutions
- 2) Copy of the student's statement of purpose
- 3) Copy of the student's current resume or curriculum vitae
- 4) A letter from the department (chair/graduate committee chair) outlining the rationale for awarding a PDRF to the nominee
- 5) A letter from the Associate Dean for Graduate Studies supporting the nominee and commitment of funds during years 2-4.

Application packets must first be submitted to the Associate Dean for Graduate Studies for review. Associate Deans must submit eligible applications to The Graduate School by March 21, 2016.