This report serves to provide statistics on students who have applied for and secured fellowship and award funding, administered and facilitated by the UIC Graduate College, for the 2016-2017 academic year. Produced by the Graduate College Fellowship Office, which works primarily with graduate students, graduate programs, and external funding agencies, it is meant as a resource for students and the greater UIC community. Services for graduate students include resources and assistance in targeting, applying for, and managing funding. We also interface closely with departments to help with student funding questions.

The majority of Graduate College internal awards are reviewed by our elected faculty awards committee (included at the end of this report), divided into four disciplinary divisions: Arts and Humanities (AH), Behavioral and Social Sciences (BSS), Engineering, Math, and Physical Sciences (EMPS), and Life Sciences (LS). Programs that are interdisciplinary in nature (noted by *) may have applications in multiple divisions.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Arts &amp; Humanities</th>
<th>Engineering, Math, &amp; Physical Sciences</th>
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<tr>
<td>Architecture</td>
<td>Bioengineering</td>
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<td>Art</td>
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<td>Information &amp; Decision Sciences</td>
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<td>Slavic &amp; Baltic Languages &amp; Literatures</td>
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<th>Behavioral &amp; Social Sciences</th>
<th>Life Sciences</th>
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<td>Accounting</td>
<td>Anatomy &amp; Cell Biology</td>
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<td>Anthropology</td>
<td>Biochemistry &amp; Molecular Genetics</td>
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<td>Business Administration</td>
<td>Biological Sciences</td>
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<td>Communication</td>
<td>Biomedical &amp; Health Information Sciences</td>
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<td>Criminology, Law, &amp; Justice</td>
<td>Biomedical Sciences</td>
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<td>Economics</td>
<td>Biopharmaceutical Sciences</td>
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<td>Education</td>
<td>Disability &amp; Human Development</td>
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<td>Environmental &amp; Urban Geography</td>
<td>Kinesiology &amp; Nutrition</td>
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<td>Finance</td>
<td>Learning Sciences*</td>
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<td>Latin American &amp; Latino Studies</td>
<td>Medical Laboratory Sciences</td>
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<td>Learning Sciences*</td>
<td>Medicinal Chemistry &amp; Pharmacognosy</td>
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<td>Medical Education</td>
<td>Microbiology &amp; Immunology</td>
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<td>Neuroscience*</td>
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<td>Political Science</td>
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<td>Public Administration</td>
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<td>Sociology</td>
<td>Pharmacology</td>
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<td>Urban Planning &amp; Policy</td>
<td>Pharmacy Systems, Outcomes, &amp; Policy</td>
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<td>Physical Therapy</td>
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<td>Physiology &amp; Biophysics</td>
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<td>Public Health Sciences</td>
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<td>Rehabilitation Sciences</td>
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<td>Surgery</td>
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The University of Illinois at Chicago boasts over 30,000 students including nearly 8,000 graduate students in approximately 50 doctoral and over 80 master’s programs.
The main recruitment award funded by the Graduate College, the University Fellowship (UF) provides four years of support for students completing a terminal graduate degree at UIC. High achieving incoming students are nominated by their programs for this funding, which provides both stipend and cost of education support.

2016-2017 Funded Awardees

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Division</th>
<th>Awardee</th>
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<tr>
<td>Anthropology</td>
<td>Aditi Aggarwal</td>
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<tr>
<td>Electrical &amp; Comp Eng</td>
<td>Anastasia Bondareva</td>
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<tr>
<td>History</td>
<td>Franklyn Lyons</td>
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<tr>
<td>Philosophy</td>
<td>Maria Mejia</td>
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Seventy-three nominations were submitted for this application cycle with close to even disciplinary division membership. Applications are due in the early spring, with most programs having priority deadlines for those interested in these robust packages. Departments are limited on the number of UF applicants they can nominate, based on their overall program enrollment—this adds to the competitive nature of the award. Frequently, we see UF winners go on to receive other internal and external funding while at UIC.

Of the 73 submitted applications, 13 applicants were offered stipend funding and tuition and fee waiver packages. Winners are given several weeks to determine if they will accept their funding packages and enroll at UIC for the upcoming fall term. Four of our awardees accepted, within the Anthropology, History, Philosophy, and Electrical & Computer Engineering programs. The University Fellowship is structured solely as a recruitment award, with other funding mechanisms extending support to continuing students.

Fourteen UF winners received stipend funding in 2016-2017: four new winners and ten continuing recipients (receiving their fellowship renewal stipend, which usually occurs in the 4th year of their study). A total of $319,607 in UF stipends was supported by the Graduate College. With permission, students can also hold small research and teaching assistantships, to supplement their income.

Whenever possible, the W.C. and Preble Deiss Fund for Biomedical Research is used to fund additional UFIs.
The goal of the Abraham Lincoln Fellowship (ALF) program is to increase the excellence and diversity of the graduate student body by attracting applicants who have overcome obstacles to achieve academic success. The ALF has two rounds of competition, recruitment for both incoming and retention for continuing student support. Doctoral students who are the recipient of recruitment support receive ALF renewal in their 4th year, after they have passed their preliminary examinations.

### 2016-2017 Funded Recruitment Round Awardees

- David Abugaber, History
- Kelly Correa, Psychology

### 2016-2017 Funded Retention Round Awardees

- Opeyemi Adeyemo, Kines & Nutrition
- Fatima Brunson, Policy Studies in Urban Education
- Ayana Chavis, Museum & Exhibition Studies
- Emilia Chico, Educ Psychology
- Jonathan Fast, Biomed Visualization
- Ni-ka Ford, Biomedical Visualization
- Nicole Inniss, Biological Sciences
- Tannya Islas, Latin American & Latino Studies

ALF Star Fellow: Areins Pelayo  
Doctoral Student in Philosophy  
Professorial Career Goals

**How did your funding further your research, academic, or career goals?**

It allowed me to focus on my course work without any teaching obligations, which is by many seen as interfering with students’ ability to complete their degree on time. It has also allowed me to take summer courses at UChicago through the [Chicago] Metropolitan Exchange Program. Winning the award makes me feel as if I am smart enough to actually complete the degree, even if my ethnicity and educational background diverge from the archetypical philosophy professor.

The flagship Star Fellowship rewards the crème de la crème — the outstanding applicants for the University and Abraham Lincoln Fellowships. Star Scholars receive three years of fellowship funding with no assigned duties and one year “top-off” funding to supplement teaching or research assistantships provided by the student’s department. Star Scholars receive tuition and partial fee waivers for all four years.

ALF Star Fellow: Areins Pelayo  
Doctoral Student in Philosophy  
Professorial Career Goals

**How did your funding further your research, academic, or career goals?**

It allowed me to focus on my course work without any teaching obligations, which is by many seen as interfering with students’ ability to complete their degree on time. It has also allowed me to take summer courses at UChicago through the [Chicago] Metropolitan Exchange Program. Winning the award makes me feel as if I am smart enough to actually complete the degree, even if my ethnicity and educational background diverge from the archetypical philosophy professor.
The Dean’s Scholar Fellowship is a one-year, non-renewable award intended to provide the most distinguished graduate students with a period of time dedicated solely to the completion of their degrees.

In total, 50 applications were submitted by programs across UIC, for their students approaching the home-stretch of their degree. The competition is open to doctoral students who have passed the Graduate College-required preliminary examination and are well into their dissertation work, and also to MFA students who have passed second-semester review. A maximum of two students may be nominated per program for the Dean’s Scholar Fellowship. Successful applicants have finished all dissertation research, and expect to graduate in the next academic year, ideally utilizing all 12 months of support provided to Dean’s Scholar recipients.

DSF Stipend Totals by Division 2016-2017

DSF 2016-2017 Application Distribution by Division

Twenty Dean’s Scholar recipients received a total of $440,000 in stipends, plus tuition waivers, in the 2016-2017 academic year. Awardees are restricted from pursuing additional assistantship funding, to devote their attention toward dissertation and thesis conclusion and graduation.

Dean’s Scholar: Dr. Sujeong Kim
Nursing Alumna
Assistant Professor at Seattle University

How did your funding further your research, academic, or career goals?
If I didn’t have this I might not have graduated because I needed to distribute my time toward child nurturing, dissertation, and working to earn the money for my stipend. Because I was a single mom of one kindergartener, the fellowship profoundly helped me to focus on and continue my dissertation work.
The Graduate College’s longest-running support for research by graduate students is the Provost’s Award for Graduate Research and the W.C. and May Preble Deiss Fund for Biomedical Research Award. These are collectively referred to as the Provost/Deiss Award. The Provost’s Award is open to all graduate students currently enrolled at UIC and the Deiss Fund is for graduate students engaged in research in clinical or basic medical sciences. Two application cycles are run each year, once each in the fall and spring.

Fall 2016 Awardees
David Abugaber-Bowman, Hisp & Ital Studies
Elsa Anderson, Biological Sciences
Ancira Emily Baca Marroquin, Anthropology
Andriana Christofalos, Psychology
Sineadh Conway, Neuroscience
Caitlyn Dye, Anthropology
Richard Elliott, History
Vahid Foroutan, Electrical & Comp Engineering
Yangmingyue Liu, Physics
Maximilian McCann, Physiology & Biophysics
Christina Mekonen, Germanic Studies
Gene Nolis, Chemistry
Rachel Ranney, Psychology
Stephanie Riesche, Nursing
Eliska Schnabel, Political Science
Javairia Shahid, Art History
Taneka Taylor-Jones, Bioengineering

Between the Graduate College and matching funds from student programs, 17 Provost/Deiss winners received a combined $31,797 in funding toward their research initiatives. The maximum award a student can receive is $3,000, and the awards committee reserves the right to adjust awards after reviewing applicants’ budgets in order to fund as many deserving students as possible. Only fall 2016 award values are noted here, as spring awards are often used in the next academic year.

Always a popular competition, 80 applications were submitted for funding consideration. Great student demand was seen in the social and behavioral sciences and life science fields, especially to enable human subject research.  

Spring 2017 Awardees
Ionit Behar, Art History
Melissa Burnett, Museum & Exhibition Studies
Sung-Joon Cho, Biopharmaceutical Sciences
Chase Clark, Med Chem & Pharmacognosy
Kimberly Garza, Anthropology
Joao Guimaraes Capuruncho, Biological Sci
Shannon Hsieh, Earth & Environ Sciences
Bijentimala Keisham, Chemical Engineering
Margaret Malone, Biological Sciences
Laurel Mazar, Criminology, Law & Justice
Tasos Moulinos, Math, Stats & Computer Sci
Laura Moye, Neuroscience
Samuel Plunket, Chemical Engineering
Hillary Rowe, Psychology
William Scarborough, Sociology
Christina Schultz, Germanic Studies
Timothy Soriano, History
Sara Stefanich, Hispanic Linguistics
Increasingly, graduate students are seeking positions outside the traditional professoriate. To this end, the Chancellor’s Graduate Internship Award Program was created in the spring of 2017 to incentivize students to independently identify short-term internship opportunities that might lead to employment following graduation. The AY2016-2017 cohort was our inaugural group, and we are looking forward to continuing this opportunity for our students in subsequent years.

This mechanism does not fund students in programs that have mandatory internships as part of their curriculum, but rather those who seek novel opportunities outside of traditional academe, e.g., in a museum, cultural center, nonprofit organization, or in university administration or academic publishing, while completing their graduate degree. There are no disciplinary restrictions; however, the Graduate College did see a concentration of applicants in the arts, humanities, and social science fields.

2016-2017 Awardees and Internship Placements
Joy Peplinski, Biological Sciences, Field Museum
Anne Kirkner, Criminology, Law, & Justice, IL Criminal Justice Information Authority
Alexis Rosario-Moore, Educational Policy Studies, Chicago Community Trust
Jamie Goldsborough, Architecture, Art Institute of Chicago

The Graduate College is limited in its ability to facilitate or provide advice on internship options for applicants; thus, students are encouraged to talk to their program faculty and peers about beneficial placements for academic and professional experience, regardless of geography. Paid internships are encouraged, as the $5,000 award provided to Chancellor’s Internship Program winners is designed to supplement the host site’s stipend. Some examples of internship sites secured by applicants include:

Art Institute of Chicago
Boggs Rural Life Center
Chicago Community Trust
Chicago History Fair
Chopin Theatre
Dorothy Stang High School
Field Museum
French Consulate
IL Criminal Justice Information Authority
Inst for Inclusion in the Legal Profession
Illinois Deaths in Custody
Newberry Library
Next Steps
Open Engagement
Project Exploration
UIC Dept of Hispanic and Italian Studies
UIC Office of Sustainability
Since its inception in 2009, the Chancellor’s Graduate Research Award (CGRA) has supported multidisciplinary scholarship in an attempt to expose graduate students to varied research and creative fields. Starting with the Fall 2016 competition, funding in the sum of $5,000 is awarded for one-year pilot grants to support preliminary research of students seeking future funding from external sources. The CGRA encourages students to think about funding earlier in their programs, while still engaged in coursework.

### 2016-2017 Awardees

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Aditi Aggarwal, Anthropology</th>
<th>Fatma Meydan, Med Chemistry &amp; Pharmacognosy</th>
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<tr>
<td>Alize Arican, Anthropology</td>
<td>Mozghan Mirzaie, Math, Stats, &amp; Computer Science</td>
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<td>Booma Sowkarthiga Balasubramani, Comp Science</td>
<td>Naomi Nemoto, Enviro &amp; Occup Health Sciences</td>
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<tr>
<td>Krystal Britt, Anthropology</td>
<td>Elizabeth Obregon, Anthropology</td>
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<td>Josephine Chaet, Anthropology</td>
<td>Aviral Pathak, Political Science</td>
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<td>Sophie DelDonno, Psychology</td>
<td>Catherine Pichardo, Psychology</td>
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<td>Nicolas Garcia Mills, Philosophy</td>
<td>Samuel Plunkett, Chemical Engineering</td>
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<tr>
<td>Shreya Ghosh, Bioengineering</td>
<td>Tiffany Raber, Biomedical Visualization</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tyler Hanck, Philosophy</td>
<td>Zamia Siddiqui, Med Chemistry &amp; Pharmacognosy</td>
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<td>Zaccheus Harmon, Philosophy</td>
<td>Ana Luiza Soares, Anthropology</td>
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<td>Ashley Isaia, Psychology</td>
<td>Sara Stefanich, Hispanic &amp; Italian Studies</td>
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<td>Eliza Jacobs-Brichford, Psycholgy</td>
<td>Vidyani Suryadevara, Bioengineering</td>
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<td>Dulari Jayawardena, Biopharmaceutical Sciences</td>
<td>Pamela Whyns, Anthropology</td>
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<tr>
<td>Reza Karim Hadisi, Philosophy</td>
<td>Heather Wilpone-Welborn, History</td>
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<tr>
<td>Deanna Ledezma, Art History</td>
<td>Lisha Wu, Civil &amp; Material Engineering</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jia Li, Computer Science</td>
<td>Wepeng Xu, Anthropology</td>
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<tr>
<td>Alicia Luque-Ferreras, Hispanic &amp; Italian Studies</td>
<td>Yue Xu, Disability &amp; Human Development</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Katharine McCabe, Sociology</td>
<td>Alexandria Young, Med Chemistry &amp; Pharmacognosy</td>
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<td>Adam Mertz, History</td>
<td>Bingqian Zhu, Nursing</td>
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### How did your funding further your research, academic, or career goals?

With [renewal] funding from the Chancellor’s Award and CAORC Fellowship, I was able to conduct a full second year of ethnographic research to greatly expand my project’s focus. Specifically, I left my field site in Kathmandu, Nepal to include other sites in my analysis (London, Hong Kong, Chiang Mai, Toronto).
Chancellor’s & National Institutes of Health Grant Awardee: Alexandria Young
Doctoral student in Pharmacognosy
Physician Scientist career goals

How did your funding further your research, academic, or career goals?
Grants like the Chancellor’s that directly support students are great and really do so much to ease student stress while they are awarded. Additionally, the F30/31’s [NIH funding], which include funding for tuition, fees, supplies and travel, have made such a huge difference in my graduate experience. I am now able to independently purchase additional experiments and reagents, as well go to conferences, that I may not have had the opportunity to buy/attend before getting the award. I am thankful for the burden it’s taken off the lab in reducing my tuition and fee costs. Of course, the experience of applying for and receiving a large, NIH-funded grant is invaluable.

Do you view funding sources through fellowships and awards as critical to a graduate student’s goals, and if so, what message would you want to extend to the general public, about supporting graduate student research and academic success?
By helping to award students, you are directly training future scientists. Even the students who are not awarded still gain valuable experience in drafting proposals and navigating the review process, skills that will be vital for them in the future. Those who are awarded gain a level of independence in being able to direct their own experiments, attempt more expensive or risky assays, to go conferences and network with people in their field they would not have had the opportunity to meet. Please help fund us!

What advice do you have for your peers who are pursuing funding opportunities?
Don’t be discouraged by failure - you may have to apply to 5, 10, 20 grants before receiving one. Also, don’t be afraid to ask for feedback or reviewer comments on your application, even if the funding group does not provide them. For external grants especially, start early and be really organized in dealing with the funding-source, UIC administrators, OPRS [UIC Office for the Protection of Research Subjects], letter writers, etc.
Graduate funding comes from nonprofit agencies, corporations, professional associations, international/foreign sources, and the US federal government, among other sources. It can also be based on many factors including field of study, gender, career goals, research cost needs, and geographical area of research.

The Graduate College Fellowships and Awards Coordinator works with students interested in applying for external funding opportunities year-round, through assisting with application material questions, reviewing essay drafts, and serving as a liaison to funding agencies. Several prominent fellowships designate campus graduate advisors, and specifically recommend or require that student applicants work with this individual when applying for support. The UIC Fellowships and Awards Coordinator serves in this role, and directly advises on the following awards and funding agencies on an annual basis:

- Boren Fellowships
- Critical Language Scholarship Program
- Council of Graduate Schools (multiple awards)
- Dolores Zohrab Liebmann Fund Fellowship
- Ford Foundation Fellowship Program
- Fulbright-Hays--Doctoral Dissertation Research Abroad Award
- German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD)
- Mellon International Dissertation Fellowship
- Midwest Association of Graduate Schools (multiple awards)
- National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellowship Program
- US Fulbright Student Program

As is the case with many internal fellowships, the Graduate College provides tuition and fee waivers to students who win sizeable external fellowships and awards, to encourage and supplement stipend packages. We celebrate and acknowledge those external winners, and collect data on their awards and sources of funding each semester, both to raise peer awareness regarding options they should consider for support, and to help improve the university administration’s understanding of disciplinary funding differences and needs.
Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Health Policy Research Scholar: Jenny Guadamuz
Doctoral Student in Pharmacy Systems, Outcomes, & Policy

What are you future plans/career aspirations?
Graduate school is a mentally, emotionally, and financially grueling. My fellowship through the RWJF has provided me with financial stability and a network of graduate students and senior faculty who provide support through the academic process. I hope to tap into this network to develop collaborative and multi-disciplinary research.

What are you future plans/career aspirations?
After graduate school, I would like to work in a non-profit organization that provides support to communities interested in improving access to health services.

Coordination for the Improvement of Higher Education (CAPES) Brazil Scholar: Camila Manoel Crnkovic
Doctoral Student in Medicinal Chemistry & Pharmacology
Research and teaching career goals

How did your funding further your research, academic, or career goals?
As an international student, funding was critical for me to pursue a degree in a notable research institution with cutting-edge technologies. This is an amazing opportunity and a milestone in my career.

What advice do you have for your peers who are pursuing funding opportunities?
A careful selection of the funding source is very important. You and your sponsor must share the same vision and goals.
NASA Earth and Space Science Fellow: Luoth Cho
Doctoral Student in Earth and Environmental Sciences

**How did your funding further your research, academic, or career goals?**

The NASA Earth and Space Science fellowship has significantly enhanced my ability to conduct research at UIC, thereby furthering my academic career in Astrobiology. The fellowship comes with a stipend that supports my salary and a separate allowance for purchasing laboratory supplies, books, travels, etc. I was able to freely conduct research, perform experiments in my lab and on other UIC instruments, and travel to conferences to talk about my research without worrying about the lack of funds. It has truly strengthened my graduate career and paved way for a potential career at space agencies.

**What advice do you have for your peers who are pursuing funding opportunities through internal and external avenues of support?**

My best advice to graduate students would be that perseverance is the key to applying for graduate fellowships. Much like graduate school, there will be successes and failures. Don’t let those failures discourage you from pursuing other opportunities. Prestigious fellowships are designed to help you shape your ideas into fruition, and requires a full understanding of the eligibility and theme of the application. Be clear about what you are doing with the funds, and how it will help enhance your field of research and your career. Ask for help from your advisor, or those who have been previously awarded. Learning how to write grants during graduate school is an incredibly useful tool that you will likely use throughout your entire career. And most importantly, start early!
Graduate College Elected Awards Committee 2016-2017

**Arts and Humanities**
Mark Chiang, English  
Anne Eaton, Philosophy  
Malgorzata (Gosia) Fidelis, History  
Rosilie Hernandez, Hispanic Studies  
Margaret Miner, French & Francophone Studies  
Daria Tsoupikova, Design

**Behavioral and Social Sciences**
Brian Bauer, Anthropology  
Claire Decoteau, Sociology  
Dmitry Epstein, Communication  
Lisa Frohmann, Criminology, Law, & Justice  
Christopher Mitchell, Social Work  
Sylvia Morelli, Psychology  
Joel Palka, Latin American & Latino Studies

**Engineering, Mathematics, & Physical Sciences**
Sybil Derrible, Civil & Materials Engineering  
Tom Driver, Chemistry  
Lin Li, Mechanical & Industrial Engineering  
Dhruv Mubayi, Mathematics, Statistics, & Computer Science  
James L. Patton, Bioengineering  
W. Andreas Schroeder, Physics

**Life Sciences**
Kirstie Danielson, Public Health-Epidemiology/Biostatistics  
David Featherstone Biological Sciences  
Joanna Frasor, Physiology & Biophysics  
Terry Moore, Medicinal Chemistry & Pharmacognosy  
Julienne N. Rutherford, Nursing  
Sojin Shikano, Biochemistry & Molecular Genetics

The Graduate College Bylaws recognized the need for an awards committee comprised of full Graduate Faculty members, to advise the Graduate Dean on the selection of graduate fellows and on other graduate student financial support issues. The bylaws address committee size and term length, and the election and appointment process for new members; elected members serve for three years, while appointed members just one.
If you are interested in applying for particular funding opportunities, or nominating a UIC graduate student for consideration, please contact the appropriate Graduate College Administrator:

Dr. Lunaire Ford, Assistant Dean, who handles the Diversifying Faculty in Illinois in Higher Education Fellowship, lford@uic.edu

Benn Williams, Fellowships and Awards Coordinator, who handles all other internal and external awards and fellowships, bwilli7@uic.edu

This report was created by Marie Khan.

Updated May 1, 2018.