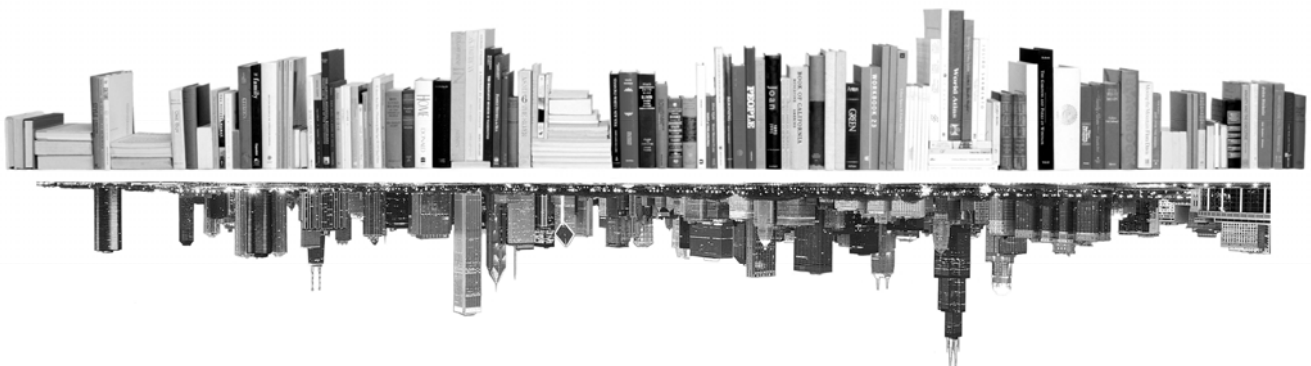


China Scholarship Council Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation  
German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD)  
National Institutes of Health Fulbright-Hays  
American Society of Microbiology Point Foundation  
Fulbright Woodrow Wilson Foundation  
Mustard Seed Foundation  
American Council of Learned Societies

GRADUATE COLLEGE FELLOWSHIPS OFFICE ANNUAL REPORT 2009

National Security Education Program  
Commercial Real Estate Women of Chicago  
National Aeronautics and Space Administration  
Council on Social Work Education American Heart Association  
Jacob K. Javits Fellowship  
Spencer Foundation Vietnam Education Foundation  
American Institute of Indian Studies Field Museum  
American Association of University Women  
Sigma Xi Ford Foundation  
National Science Foundation Jack Kent Cooke Foundation



**GRADUATE COLLEGE FELLOWSHIPS OFFICE ANNUAL REPORT 2009**

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**GRADUATE COLLEGE FELLOWSHIPS OFFICE ANNUAL REPORTS 2009**

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**Summary**

**GRADUATE COLLEGE MISSION**

The Graduate College at the University of Illinois at Chicago is dedicated to a simple idea: bringing together superb students with outstanding research faculty in a diverse and stimulating urban environment.

**GRADUATE COLLEGE KEY STRATEGIC ISSUES**

**Diversity**

**Program Quality and Innovation**

**The Quality of the Graduate Experience**

The Fellowships Office of the Graduate College operates by following both its Mission and key strategic issues, as described in the Graduate College Strategic Plan. In doing so, this document reports external awards won by UIC graduate students since the inception of the Fellowships Office in 2002, plus the historical development of the office, efforts made to reach all graduate students at UIC, and related initiatives.

**Selected awards from the 2008-2009 year**

Over the course of 2008-2009, UIC graduate students won:

- 15 National Research Service Awards, National Institutes of Health
- 11 American Heart Association Pre-doctoral Fellowships
- 8 Schweitzer Fellowships
- 2 Gates Millennium Foundation Scholarships
- 1 U.S. Dept. of Transportation Eisenhower Fellowship
- 1 U.S. Fulbright Student Program Fellowship (to Italy)
- 1 National Security Education Program Boren Graduate Fellowship (to Tanzania)
- 1 Dissertation Fellowship from the Inter-American Foundation (to Uruguay)
- 1 Ford Foundation Predoctoral Diversity Fellowship

These awards are in addition to current students holding multi-year fellowships including the Graduate Research Fellowships from the National Science Foundation, fellowships from the Max Kade Foundation, the Field Museum, and the Vietnam Education Foundation.

**GRADUATE STUDENT EXTERNAL AWARDS, 2008-2009**

Over 2008-2009, graduate students held or won the following fellowships or training grants:

The American Association of University Women Dissertation Fellowship (1)  
The American Psychological Association Minority Fellowship (1)  
American Heart Association Pre-doctoral Fellowships (11)  
Chicago Consular Corps Scholarships (10)  
China Scholarship Council Graduate Scholarship(2)  
Diversifying Faculty in Illinois Graduate Fellowships (22)  
Field Museum Research Fellowship (1)  
FMC Technologies Fund Fellowships (5)  
Ford Foundation International Fellows Program Fellowship (1)  
Fulbright International Fellowships (19)  
Gates Millennium Foundation Scholarship (1)  
Inter-American Foundation Dissertation Fellowship (1)  
Jacob K. Javits Fellowship, Department of Education (1)  
Max Kade Foundation Fellowships (3)  
Oak Ridge Institute Research Fellowship,  
co-sponsored by the U.S. Department of Energy and the EPA (1)  
National Institutes of Health National Research Service Awards (15)  
National Security Education Program Boren Graduate Fellowship (1)  
National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellowships (2)  
Point Foundation Graduate Fellowship (1)  
Spencer Foundation Dissertation Fellowship (1)  
U.S. Fulbright Student Fellowships (1)  
Vietnam Education Foundation Fellowships (3)

These students received over \$1.8 million in stipend funds in 2008-2009 alone. Please note that this Report does not include information on internal fellowships given by the Graduate College or individual departments at UIC, such as the following:

Abraham Lincoln Fellowships (Graduate College)  
Bentley Gilbert Award (History)  
Dean's Scholar Fellowships (Graduate College)  
Kouvel Fellowship (Hispanic Studies)  
Martin Luther King Jr. Scholarships (Career Services)  
Moriarty Fellowship (Chemistry)  
Navona Fellowships (Art & Design)  
Neurosciences Fellowships (Graduate College)  
Paaren Fellowship (Chemistry)  
Polish National Alliance Research Award (History)  
Ragsdale Political Science fellowship (Political Science)  
University Fellowships (Graduate College)

### **TRAINING GRANTS, 2008-2009**

In the 2005-2006 year, the Graduate College provided nine full or partial tuition waivers to graduate students chosen to work with training grants, most notably the NIH-sponsored AIDS International Training and Research Program and the NSF-sponsored Robert Noyce Teaching Scholarship Program. In the summer of 2006, UIC faculty won two IGERT grants (Integrated Graduate Engineering Research and Training) from the National Science Foundation, two GAANN awards (Graduate Assistance in Areas of National Need) from the U.S. Department of Education, and (in partnership with several Chicago institutions), a Louis B. Stokes Alliances for Minority Participation “Bridge to the Doctorate” Program grant. The Graduate College was pleased to partner with the respective academic programs to provide waivers for student trainees; a total of seventy-nine were provided in 2008-2009.

Excluding those graduate students who have won individual training grants, such as the NIH National Research Service Awards, in 2008-2009 waivers were provided to seventy-nine graduate students for the following training grants:

Graduate Assistance in Areas of National Need (GAANN), Nursing:	5
Graduate Assistance in Areas of National Need (GAANN), Physics:	7
National Institutes of Health (various):	18
NSF IGERT in Computational Transportation Science:	9
NSF IGERT/LEAP Program:	11
NSF Louis Stokes Bridge to the Doctorate:	18
NSF Scientists, Kids and Teachers (SKIT):	7
NSF Medical Science Training Program:	4

It must be noted that there may be more students currently sponsored by these training grants, who are often set up as research assistants; and that other training grants exist on campus. Training grants listed above are those which have partnered with the Graduate College to provide full or partial tuition waivers to graduate students funded by these grants.

**FELLOWSHIPS AND TRAINING GRANTS AT UIC: HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVE**

Until 2002, there was no central office at UIC to collect information on graduate students and the awards they had won. The position of Fellowship and Financial Aid Coordinator was created for the 2002-2003 year. As of August 2002, the Fellowships Office has been able to collect information on current graduate students' awards, assist graduate students in finding and applying for funding, and work as the official liaison for major fellowships (see Appendix 3).

According to Graduate College records, the number of UIC graduate students winning external fellowships has steadily increased over the past six years.

<u>YEAR</u>	<u>NUMBER OF GRADUATE STUDENTS WITH EXTERNAL FELLOWSHIPS</u>
2002-2003	53
2003-2004	64
2004-2005	71
2005-2006	77
2006-2007	79
2007-2008	81
2008-2009	94

Thus, from 2002 to 2009, the number of graduate students winning external fellowships has increased by almost eighty percent. Specific fellowship information for the 2008-2009 year is provided in Appendix 1.

## HIGHLIGHTS FROM 2008-2009

**Carrie Seltzer**, a graduate student in Civil & Materials Engineering, won a Graduate Research Fellowship from the National Science Foundation. **Peter Malcolm and Tanganyika Wilder** received Honorable Mentions for their application to the GRFP.

**Jeremiah Hulsebos-Spofford**, a graduate student in Art & Design, won a Fulbright grant to study boatmaking in Sicily and lead a community-based art project. **Rebecca Little**, a graduate student in Urban Planning, was named an alternate for a Fulbright to New Zealand, the third-toughest country competition within the U.S. Fulbright Student program.

**Akilah Watkins-Butler**, a graduate student in Sociology, won a three-year Ford Foundation Predoctoral Diversity Fellowship.

**Megan Mattingly**, a graduate student in Urban Planning, won a Boren Graduate Fellowship to Tanzania.

In the summer 2009, two graduate students in the College of Engineering, **Adeola Adewola and Priscilla Viana**, won International Dissertation Fellowships from the American Association of University Women. The 2009-2010 year will be the first that UIC has had two winners of the IDF.

Three graduate students, **Yvonne Isom, Xavier Perez and LaTosha Traylor**, won Graduate Minority Fellowships from the American Society of Criminology. Previous winners of this fellowship include **LaDonna Long and Ericka Adams** in 2008, and **Claudio Vera-Sanchez** in 2003.

**Leonor Vanik and Andrew Greenlee** received dissertation grants from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. Leonor was a DFI fellow over 2008-2009; Andrew held a Lincoln fellowship the same year.

Over fall 2008 and spring 2009, **Adrienne Phelps Coco**, a doctoral student in History, won a dissertation fellowship from the Schlesinger Library at Harvard, a Paul Klemperer fellowship from the New York Academy of Medicine, and a UIC Graduate College Provost's Award.

**Stephanie Christians**, a graduate student in Healthcare Administration won a Foster McGaw scholarship from the American College of Healthcare Executives.

**Ishita Basu**, a graduate student in Electrical & Computer Engineering, won a ThinkSwiss Research Scholarship, to study at the École Polytechnique Fédéral de Lausanne.

**Xiaowei Gong**, a doctoral student in Business Administration, won a scholarship from the Oxford-Man Institute of Quantitative Finance, part of Oxford University, for study over the 2009-2010 year.

## **OUTREACH**

As the breadth and variety of Fellowships Office responsibilities has increased since its establishment in 2002, the overarching mandate for all activities is outreach. The primary goal is to reach as many UIC graduate students as possible to inform them of fellowship opportunities and ways the Fellowships Office can aid them in searching for, applying for, and supplementing their funding. However, outreach efforts do not stop with students. Since 2005, several initiatives have been launched in the Fellowships Office in order to reach UIC faculty, staff, related offices, and alumni. Each of these initiatives will be fully described throughout this Report, beginning with improved services for students.

## **WEBSITE**

In the late fall of 2008, the “Funding Your Education” section of the Graduate College website was significantly enhanced by the addition of two new resources. First, a new page entitled “Graduate Funding 101” gives students at all levels a comprehensive look at graduate funding, in a user-friendly clickable format. Second, in response to both student and staff frustration at non-posting of waivers, a flowchart vetted by the Office of Financial Aid and labelled “My waiver didn’t post!” was created to help everyone understand possible problems and whom to contact, thereby alleviating a great deal of confusion.

## **FUNDING SEMINARS**

The 2008 Fellowships Annual Report contains a complete description of the development of Funding Seminars. Over the 2008-2009 year, nine Funding Seminars were held attended by over 240 students. A complete breakdown of student attendance can found in Appendix 2.

## **AGENCY CAMPUS VISITS**

One of the most valuable resources of information on any given fellowship is the fellowship agency itself. The Fellowships Office has thus coordinated regular visits by agency representatives to campus, inviting graduate students as well as UIC faculty and staff to attend and learn about the particular fellowship, its background and purpose, and how to most competitively apply for it. It must be noted here that the Graduate College has partnered with the Office of Special Scholarship Programs in coordinating each of these visits, in order to reach the largest number of students.

Representatives from the Bosch Foundation, the Council of American Overseas Research Centers, the National Science Foundation and the Institute of International Education visited UIC over the 2008-2009 year to discuss their fellowships for graduate study.

In March 2009, the Graduate College was especially pleased to host a meeting with Penny Egan, Executive Director of the Fulbright Commission of the United Kingdom, to discuss programs available to UIC graduate students in the U.K.



## **INFORMATION SESSIONS**

Since its establishment in 2002, the Fellowships Office has given information sessions on specific external fellowships in which graduate students appear to have the most interest: the U.S. Fulbright Student Program, the NSF Graduate Research Fellowship Program, and the Jacob K. Javits fellowship. As of July 2009, sixty-eight students have attended information sessions given in 2008 and 2009.

## **WAIVER HANDBOOK**

The Graduate College provides a quota of Board of Trustee (BOT) waivers to each graduate academic program, administered by the Fellowships Office. In addition, BOT waivers are also given to supplement certain individual external fellowships, or students sponsored by training grants. However, until 2006, no published policy existed to explain the way such waivers were awarded, definitions of such waivers, eligibility for such waivers, and ways to troubleshoot waiver problems. Not surprisingly, there was a huge amount of confusion among faculty, Directors of Graduate Study, and staff with regard to these issues. In March of 2006, the first Graduate College Waiver Handbook was provided online, accompanied by a presentation for faculty and staff in order to describe these waivers, distribute print copies, and answer questions. The Waiver Handbook is updated annually in August, with print copies sent to each Director of Graduate Studies just before the fall semester. This reference, written and updated by the Fellowship Coordinator, has alleviated a great deal of confusion and misunderstanding, thereby improving service to graduate students who hold these waivers, irrespective of type. Given its size, the Waiver Handbook is not provided in the appendices, but can be accessed easily via the Graduate College website.

## **PRESENTATIONS**

### **Presentations for students**

Also since the establishment of the Fellowships Office in 2002, presentations on graduate funding to various groups of students have been given, at the request of students, professors, or administrative staff. For example, the Fellowship Coordinator is invited annually to present to graduate students in Political Science, Anthropology, Psychology, Education, and Nursing, as well as to fellows of the DFI program and undergraduates in the Summer Research Opportunity Program (SROP). Any group may request a presentation on graduate funding. Each presentation is tailored to the student audience and followed up with an email providing useful weblinks.

### **Presentations for faculty**

In the fall semester 2008, quite a number of visits to departmental faculty were set up, but were ultimately cancelled because of a severe misunderstanding regarding waivers given with graduate assistantships. In October 2008, the Vice Provost for Resource Planning & Management sent a memo to all Deans and Academic Fiscal Officers explaining tuition remission for graduate assistants, making it clear that this policy does not affect Graduate College waivers. Presentations to faculty via departmental meetings will therefore be set up in earnest for the fall 2009.

## **PARTNERSHIPS**

The Fellowships Office partners with several related offices on campus. Upon its establishment in 2002, the Graduate College Fellowships Office partnered with the Office of Special Scholarship Programs (OSSP) for coordinated information sessions, outreach, and general guidance as the Fellowships Office grew. The Director of OSSP, Beth Powers, is an invaluable resource for the Fellowships Office, as she is a founding member of the National Association of Fellowships Advisors (NAFA) – the only professional association for fellowship advising – as well as its past president. The OSSP Director has sat in on several graduate review committees and information sessions to provide valuable advice; the Fellowship Coordinator has likewise sat on review committees for the OSSP. This partnership is by far the most useful for graduate fellowship advising.

The Fellowships Office also partners with the Office of Financial Aid, not only in the posting of waivers, but working actively and collaboratively toward the most streamlined waiver policy and process. Staff of the Office of Financial Aid have also worked proactively with the Fellowships Office in administering new fellowships, such as that for UIC's inaugural fellow of the Vietnam Education Foundation (VEF) in the fall of 2006. Accurate and streamlined processing of Graduate College waivers could not occur without the collegial and highly professional staff of the Office of Financial Aid.

As graduate students apply for an increasing number of federal fellowships, the Fellowships Office's relationship to the Office of Research Services (ORS) has also become stronger. The Fellowship Coordinator has met regularly with ORS staff to ensure that fellowships such as the Javits, the NSF GRFP, the VEF and the Fulbright-Hays DDRA are administered in full compliance with federal regulations. Further, it should be noted that the Funding Seminars for graduate students are modeled after those given by the ORS for UIC faculty and staff. ORS Assistant Director Jennifer Czak has been particularly scrupulous in ensuring that UIC faculty, staff and graduate students are aware of the Fellowships Office and the Funding Seminars.

Part of the mandate of the Fellowships Office is to work not only with graduate students looking for specific external fellowships, but also to guide them on graduate financial aid in general. Although the Graduate College does not administer them, since assistantships are the most common form of graduate financial aid, the Fellowships Office provides general guidance on assistantships. This is done collaboratively with Academic Human Resources, to ensure that all policies published on all websites are consistent and accurate. The Fellowships Office hopes to be able to build on the existing partnership with Human Resources to provide a searchable graduate assistantship database; complete details on this initiative is given in the section on goals for 2009-2010.

## **RESEARCH AND PUBLICATION**

In continuing her research into minority students applying for major fellowships, Lisa Knepshield (Fellowship Coordinator) wrote a chapter for *Leading The Way: Student Engagement and Nationally Competitive Awards*, published by the National Association of Fellowships Advisors in July 2009. The chapter, entitled “Encouraged to Apply,” compares fellowship agencies’ cries for a more diverse applicant pool with institutional strategies for their recruitment. It also analyzes the resources and tools available to formulate institutional, regional, and national frames of reference to address the issue.

## **GOALS FOR 2008-2009**

Motivation for all Fellowships Office goals for 2009-2010, as those for 2008-2009, can be summed up in one word: communication. For current and prospective graduate students, it is essential that communication between students, the Fellowships Office, related campus offices and alumni improve and increase. Therefore, the following ideas toward this improved communication are suggested for the coming year:

### **Electronic Tools**

Two electronic tools are badly needed in order to streamline the graduate funding process. First, the allocated waiver process (in which programs identify those students to receive allocated BOT waivers for a given semester) should be made entirely electronic. A complete and detailed plan for the design, testing and launch of this tool has been fully developed by the Fellowships Office in consultation with IT staff of the Graduate College. It now remains to see what time and effort can be devoted to the project, given other Graduate College projects and objectives.

Second, and perhaps more importantly, an electronic assistantship search tool must be developed. The primary reason for such a tool is, of course, to better serve graduate students in their search for funding. However, there are many other benefits to such a project: virtually all units on campus would appreciate being able to use such a tool, thereby eliminating the need to print up signs and notices that they have no assistantships available. Further, the Graduate College would receive a huge PR lift in providing the service. There are issues to be resolved prior to launch of such a tool, including establishing a policy on graduate assistantship waivers, preventing misunderstandings of what responsibilities are those of the Graduate College versus those of departments or Human Resources; and the original startup effort and maintenance thereafter. All of these issues have been taken into account, and the benefits still far outweigh any detriments those issues may raise. Again, while complete and detailed plans have made for the actual design, testing and launch of such a tool, since the project necessarily involves other staff of the Graduate College, and probably consultations with other units such as Academic Human Resources and possibly Legal Services, the amount of progress that can be made on the idea remains to be seen.

### **Professional Development**

Research on funding for graduate study, particularly for students from underrepresented groups, will continue, including more historical research and analyses from this research for further publication. In addition, and with an eye to the 2011 Biennial Meeting of the National Association of Fellowships Advisors in Chicago, a great effort will be made to integrate graduate-level fellowships advising more fully into the organization. This would include at least a panel discussion at the 2011 conference, and ideally the founding a Graduate Advising Committee within NAFA.

### **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION**

Questions on any information or material provided in the Annual Report, or requests for further information, should be made to the Fellowships Office. Contact information is as follows:

Lisa J. Knepshield  
Fellowship and Financial Aid Coordinator  
Graduate College  
University of Illinois at Chicago  
611 University Hall, M/C 192  
601 South Morgan  
Chicago, IL 60607  
T: 312.355.3456  
F: 312.413.0185  
E: [Lisaknep@uic.edu](mailto:Lisaknep@uic.edu)  
I: <http://grad.uic.edu>

**APPENDIX 1**

**EXTERNAL FELLOWSHIPS HELD BY UIC GRADUATE STUDENTS, 2008-2009**

<b>Fellowship</b>	<b>Number awarded</b>
American Association of University Women dissertation fellowship	1
American Heart Association pre-doctoral fellowship	11
American Psychological Association Minority Fellowship	1
Javits fellowship	1
DFI	22
Field Museum fellowships	1
FMC	5
Ford Foundation International fellowships	1
Gates Millennium Foundation	1
Government of Egypt fellowship	1
Harvey Fellowship, Mustard Seed Foundation	1
Inter-American Foundation	1
International Fulbright fellowships	19
Max Kade Foundation	3
NASA Graduate Student Research Project	1
NIH National Research Service Awards	15
NSF Graduate Research Fellowship Program	1
ORISE/EPA Research fellowship	1
Point Foundation scholarship	1
Spencer Foundation dissertation fellowship	1
U.S. Fulbright fellowships	2
U.S. Dept of Transportation Eisenhower Fellowship	1
Vietnam Education Foundation	1
Woodrow Wilson Foundation, Newcombe Dissertation Fellowship	1
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>94</b>

**APPENDIX 2**

**FUNDING SEMINAR ATTENDANCE**

Number of students registered for each seminar:..... 40

Average number of attendees ..... 28 (68% attendance)

Attendee countries of citizenship (16):

Algeria	Ethiopia	Korea (South)	Spain
Brazil	Hungary	Lebanon	Taiwan
Bulgaria	Iceland	Lithuania	Turkey
China	India	Mexico	United States
Colombia	Iran	Nepal	Zimbabwe
Cyprus	Italy	Pakistan	
Dominican Republic	Japan	Peru	
Egypt	Jordan	Russia	

Attendee fields of study (49):

Accounting	Disability & Human Development	MSW
Anatomy & Cell Biology	Disability Studies	Neurosciences
Anthropology	Earth & Environmental Sciences	Nursing
Architecture	Economics	Oral Sciences
Art History	Education	Pharmacology
Biochemistry & Molecular Genetics	Electrical & Computer Engineering	Pharmacy Administration
Bioengineering	English	Philosophy
Bioinformatics	Germanic Studies	Political Science
Biological Sciences	Healthcare Administration	Psychology
Biopharmaceutical Sciences	Hispanic Studies	Public Administration
Business Administration (PhD only)	History	Public Health
Chemical Engineering	Human Nutrition	Slavics
Chemistry	Management Information Systems	Social Work (PhD only)
Civil & Materials Engineering	Mathematics	Sociology
Communication	Mechanical Engineering	Urban Planning & Policy
Computer Science	Medicinal Chemistry & Pharmacognosy	
Criminal Justice	Movement Sciences	

**APPENDIX 3:**

**INDEX OF MAJOR FELLOWSHIPS (OFFICIAL CAMPUS CONTACT)**

The Fellowship Coordinator serves as the official campus contact for a number of fellowships. Graduate students interested in applying for these fellowships should contact the Fellowship Coordinator in order to fully discuss the campus procedure, as required by the fellowship agency. Students who currently hold these fellowships must also be in contact with the Fellowship Coordinator.

<u>FELLOWSHIP</u>	<u>SPONSORING AGENCY</u>	<u>CAMPUS CONTACT TITLE</u>
U.S. Fulbright Student grant	Institute of International Education	FulbrightProgram Advisor (FPA)
NSEP Boren Graduate Fellowship	Institute of International Education	Campus representative
NSF Graduate Research Fellowship Program	National Science Foundation	Primary Coordinating Official
Jacob K. Javits Fellowship	Department of Education	Project Director
Fulbright-Hays DDRA (Doctoral Dissertation Research Abroad)	Department of Education	Project Director
DAAD Study Scholarship	German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD)	Partner University Contact
DAAD Research Grant	German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD)	Partner University Contact

The Fellowship Coordinator also serves as the central UIC administrator for international Fulbright grants administered by Amideast, IIE and LASPAU, Ford International Fellows, and fellows of the Vietnam Education Foundation.