

How to Fund Your Graduate Education



Fellowships and Financial Services

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Overview

- **Types of funding**
 - Need-based funding
 - Employment at UCLA
 - Merit-based funding
 - Extramural
 - Internal
- **Application process**
- **Award databases**
- Undocumented funding
- Key takeaways



Types of Graduate Funding

1

Need-Based
Funding

2

Employment at
UCLA

3

Merit-Based Competitive Funding:
Internal and Extramural

1

Need-Based Support

- Funding amount is calculated on student's need and cost of education.
- Federal funding is available for U.S. citizens and permanent residents and takes two forms:
 - 1) Student Loans
 - 2) Work Study
- Other sources of funding (private scholarships, private loans) may also be available.

Financial Aid and Scholarships at UCLA

FAFSA (*apply early*)



2 Employment at UCLA

Academic Apprentice Personnel

Graduate Student
Researcher (GSR)

Graduate
Student
Researchers

Academic Student
Employee (ASE)

- TAs
- Readers
- Tutors

Fee remission benefits to cover
tuition and fees (if eligible)



3 Merit-Based Support

- Funding awarded on the basis of research and demonstrated academic potential.
- Competitive. Not awarded based on financial need.
- Funding available internally and through extramural awards

3a

Extramural

3b

Internal



The Search for Merit-based Support

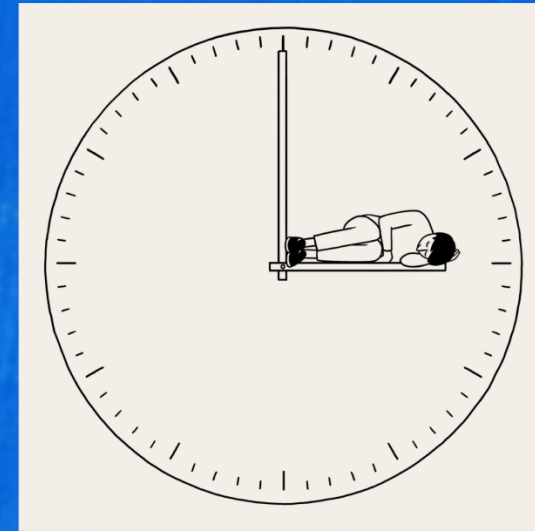
- As you are researching graduate programs, consider if and how the program funds students.
- You will also want to research potential funding opportunities alongside your search for the right program.



The Award Lifecycle



*Think one year
in advance!*



What is the award's mission?

- Know their mission and what projects interest them.
- What research are they funding?

Eligibility

- Masters vs. PhD? Stage in the Program?
- What do you need to show to be eligible for the award?

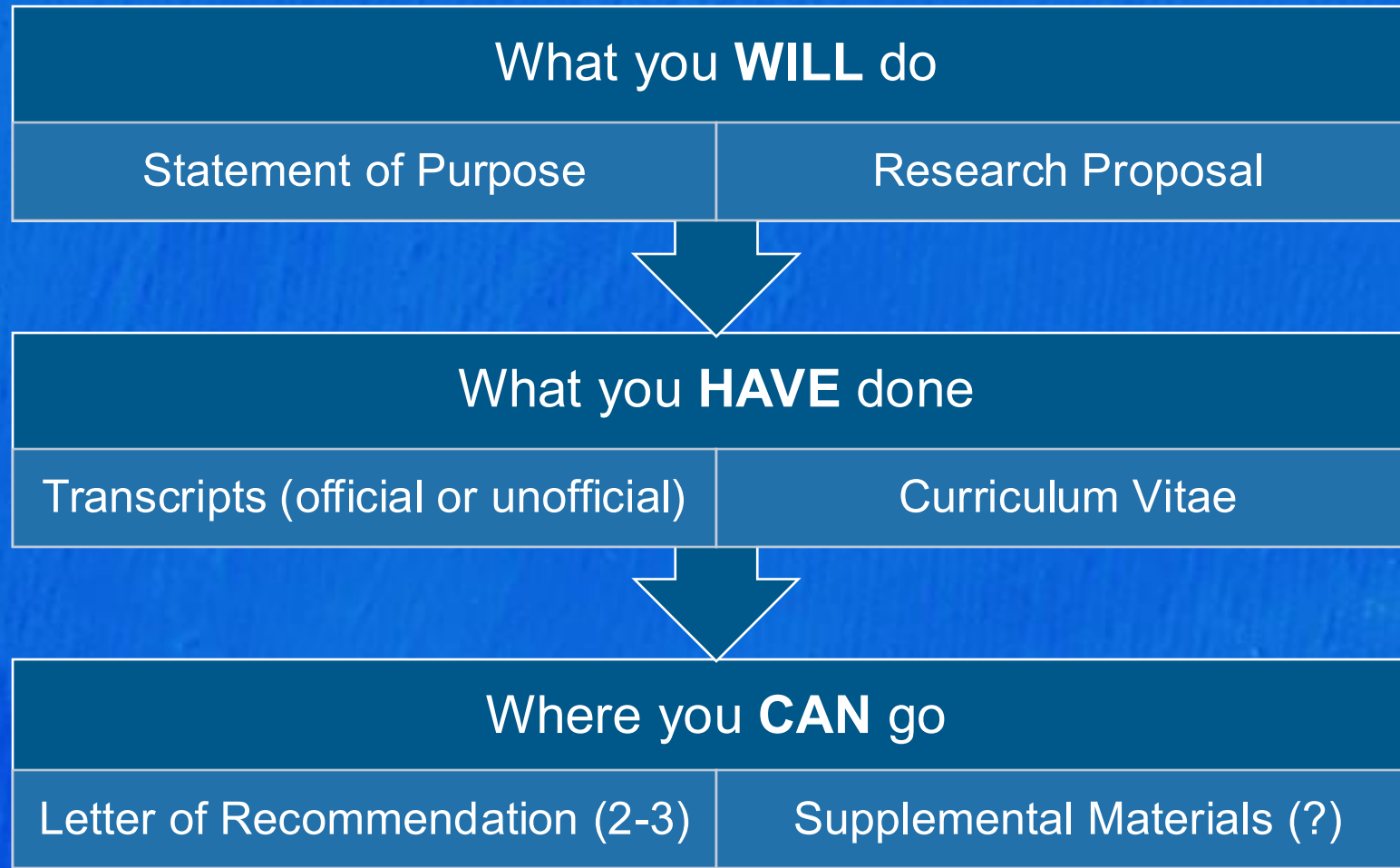
Review Process

- Is there an institutional nomination process?
- Remember to pitch research to award reviewers so they can understand your significance.

Award Eligibility Phases



Parts of the Application



Awards Tied to Graduate Admissions

- When you apply for admission, be certain to select any awards listed in the application that you may qualify for
- Some award consideration may be automatic
- Funding decisions may come from both the **home academic department** and the **graduate school central office** via a **funding offer letter**.

Graduate Admission Application



```
graph TD; A[Graduate Admission Application] --> B[Department level review/decision (admission, funding)]; B --> C[Graduate school level review/decision (admission, funding)];
```

Department level review/decision
(admission, funding)

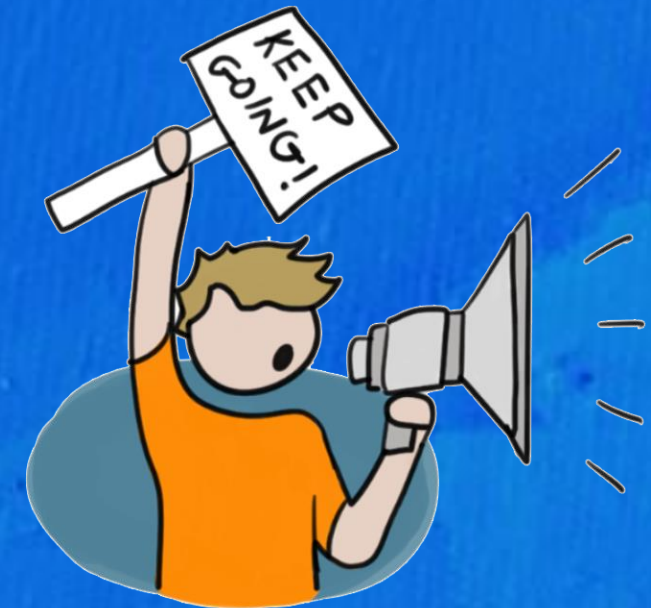
Graduate school level review/decision
(admission, funding)

Translating an Admission Funding Offer Letter

- Take your time and read any funding offer letter carefully.
- **Key questions:**
 - a) What is the typical funding for a graduate student?
 - b) What is the nature of the funding (employment, financial support award)?
 - c) What is the duration/timing of the funding?
 - d) What happens if you are awarded extramural funding that you can bring to an institution? **ASK BEFORE YOU SIGN!**
- In the end, think about where you feel you would be **successful** as you come to a decision.

Don't Stop at Admissions Funding!

- Remember, you want to search for possible extramural funding you can **bring** to an institution.
- Once you have enrolled, most institutions will also have competitive internal funding opportunities. Pay attention and apply!



3a Extramural Fellowships

- Nation-wide competitions, not tied to specific universities.
- Offered by external institutions (Private Foundations, Research Centers, Government Institutions, etc.)
- Range in duration short periods (summer or academic year) to multiple year awards.
- Wide variety – so research and apply to anything and everything!



Examples

PAUL & DAISY
SOROS
FELLOWSHIPS FOR
NEW AMERICANS

Private Organization
Demographic-based

**AICPA
John L Carey
Scholarship
Award**



Federal*
Field-based
Multi-Year




Award Databases

- Search for funding!
- Set search criteria
- Take note of important deadlines
- Look one year in advance
- Keep track with a master list



UCLA GRAPES Database



SAVE TIME
SEARCHING FOR FUNDING

Search for FundingFinancial Aid & FinancesTuitionCalendarWorking at UCLAFAQs

Back to Search

Fellowship & Grant Opportunities

Each year, the John F. Kennedy Library Foundation offers more than 5 awards to scholars who wish to make use of the archival materials located in Boston.

Students and scholars will carry out research using the collections, including audiovisual materials, of the John F. Kennedy Presidential Library and Museum in Boston, Massachusetts. Selected research topics include foreign intelligence and the presidency, foreign policy of the Kennedy Presidency, immigration, domestic policy or press releases or polling, and the Hemingway Collection.

Save to Favorites

Apply On Website

Fellowship Details

Deadline: 09-30-2023
11-01-2023

Check Citizenship

Fellowship Details

Deadline: 09-30-2023
11-01-2023

September 30 deadline is for the Kovler, Schlesinger Jr., Schwartz, and Sorenson Research Fellowships. November 1 deadline is for the Hemingway Grant.

Amount: \$5,000

Stipend: Awards range from \$3,100 to \$5,000.

Citizenship: No citizenship requirements.

Award Type: Fellowship/Grant

UCLA GRAPES Database: Smart Recs



The screenshot shows the UCLA Graduate Education website. A large yellow arrow points from the text 'Click on SAVE TIME' to a yellow button labeled 'SAVE TIME SEARCHING FOR FUNDING'. Another yellow arrow points from the text 'Login' to a blue button labeled 'UCLA Student Login'. The website header includes a navigation bar with links: Search for Funding, Financial Aid & Finances, Tuition, Calendar, Working at UCLA, and FAQs. The main content area features the title 'UCLA Graduate Education' and a section titled 'Smart Recommendations' with the text 'Providing you personal recommendations for funding opportunities and alerts for deadlines and events.' A large thumbs-up icon is visible in the background of the main content area.

Click on SAVE TIME

SAVE TIME
SEARCHING FOR FUNDING

UCLA Graduate Education

Search for Funding Financial Aid & Finances Tuition Calendar Working at UCLA FAQs

Smart Recommendations

Providing you personal recommendations for funding opportunities and alerts for deadlines and events.

Login

UCLA Student Login

SPIN Database

The image shows a sequence of two screenshots from the SPIN Database website, connected by a large yellow arrow pointing from left to right. The top screenshot shows the main navigation bar with the 'infoEd GLOBAL' logo on the left and a menu on the right. The menu items are 'eRAI', 'Products', 'Services', 'Research Management Clientele', 'About', and 'Contact'. A yellow box highlights the 'SPIN' link in the top right corner, with a yellow arrow pointing to it from the left. The bottom screenshot shows the 'Sign in using institutional credentials' page. It contains a paragraph explaining that InfoEd Global is an authorized service provider with the InCommon Federation. Below this is a dropdown menu labeled 'Select your organization from the list below:' with the placeholder text 'Please select your organization'. A yellow box highlights this dropdown menu. Below the dropdown is a 'Login' button and a 'Help' link. The second screenshot shows the same page but with the dropdown menu open, displaying a search bar with 'ucla' entered and a list of results with 'UCLA' selected. A yellow box highlights the search bar and the results list. A large yellow arrow points from the first screenshot to the second.

infoEd GLOBAL

eRAI Products Services Research Management Clientele About Contact

SPIN ITEMS ICAG

Sign in using institutional credentials

InfoEd Global became an authorized service provider with the InCommon Federation to provide SPIN™ users with easier access. If your institution appears below or in the pick list, you may login using your institutional credentials. If your institution does not appear, contact your institutional SPIN™ administrator to inquire about InCommon federated access.

Select your organization from the list below:

Please select your organization

Login Help

Sign in using institutional credentials

InfoEd Global became an authorized service provider with the InCommon Federation to provide SPIN™ users with easier access. If your institution appears below or in the pick list, you may login using your institutional credentials. If your institution does not appear, contact your institutional SPIN™ administrator to inquire about InCommon federated access.

Select your organization from the list below:

Please select your organization

ucla

UCLA

Help

<https://spin.infoedglobal.com/Authorize/Login>

SPIN Database

SPIN World's Largest Database of Sponsored Funding Opportunities ROSS FENIMORE UCLA [Sign Out](#)

Search ▾ Preferences ▾ Saved Searches ▾ Funding Alerts ▾ Bookmarks ▾ Help ▾

Clear Locate Funding

☐ **Exclude US Federal Opportunities**
You have additional filters active. [Click here to edit them.](#)

Search ▾ Preferences ▾ Saved Searches ▾ Funding Alerts ▾ Bookmarks ▾ Help ▾

Clear Locate Funding Save

☐ **Exclude US Federal Opportunities**
You have additional filters active. [Click here to edit them.](#)

Results Found: 555 Reset Filters Export

Drag a column header and drop it here to group by that column

<input type="checkbox"/>	SPIN ID	Opportunity Title	Sponsor Name	Sponsor Number	Deadline Date	Funding Amount	Bookmark
▶	085244	Ethel Newbold Prize	Bernoulli Society for Mathematical Statistics and Probability		30-Nov-2024	2,750.00 USD	+ <input type="checkbox"/>
▶	103608	CDC Statistical Fellowship	Oak Ridge Institute for Science and Education	CDC-NCEZID-DFWED-2023-0103	Continuous Submission	Not Specified	+ <input type="checkbox"/>
Dear Colleague Letter:							



S. Scott Collis Fellowship in Data Science
Sandia National Laboratories
Funding Opportunity Number:
+ Bookmark Program

Overview

Deadline Date 28-Oct-2024 (Receipt) [Deadline Information](#) ➔

Funding Level See Detail 2 year(s) [Funding Information](#) ➔

Eligibility To be considered for this fellowship, applicants must have completed, or are pursuing, a Ph.D. in a data science related area, such as mathematics, computer science, statistics, or engineering, conferred within the past three years, or anticipated completion of Ph.D. requirements by commencement of appointment. Furthermore, applicants must have appropriate research experience in one or more areas of data science as evidenced by a strong record of research publications and presentations. In addition to these research qualifications, applicants should have no previous postdoctoral appointments at a national laboratory and must be eligible to acquire a DOE security clearance which requires US Citizenship.

<https://spin.infoedglobal.com/Authorize/Login>

3b

UCLA DGE Awards

- UCLA Division of Graduate Education (DGE) offers merit-based awards to graduate students.
- This presentation covers awards specific to UCLA DGE – there are additional opportunities on campus at UCLA.
- Variety of eligibility requirements, award amounts, etc.
- Refer to [Graduate Student Financial Support booklet](#) for more information.

**Entering
Student Awards**

**Continuing
Student Awards**





UCLA Entering Student Awards: Award Opportunities focused on Inclusivity.



Graduate Opportunity Program

For entering students pursuing terminal or professional master's degrees or the JD

Eugene V. Cota-Robles

For entering doctoral students





Graduate Opportunity Program (GOP)



- This **first-year** funding package includes:
 - **\$25,000 in financial support and/or salary,**
 - **Tuition/fees (in-state)**
 - **Non-resident supplemental tuition (if applicable).**
 - Second quarter of funding is provided by the home academic department via award, teaching assistant, or graduate student researcher position
- Eligibility: US Citizens, permanent residents, or undocumented students who qualify for nonresident supplemental tuition exemptions under AB 540.
- Decisions are made on a rolling basis. Students should focus on their personal statement in the application.



Eugene V. Cota-Robles Award



- Eligibility: US Citizens, permanent residents, or undocumented students who qualify for nonresident supplemental tuition exemptions under AB 540.
- This **four-year** award package includes:
 - **\$30,000 in financial support and/or salary per year** in funding
 - **In-state tuition and fees,**
 - **Health insurance, and**
 - **Non-resident supplemental tuition (NRST) for the first year (if applicable).**
- Decisions are made on a rolling basis. Students should focus on their personal statement in the application.



Continuing Doctoral Student Awards at UCLA

- **Graduate Summer Research Mentorship award** (\$6,000): Summer research support with the goal of producing a paper to present at an academic conference or for publication with a faculty mentor.
- **Graduate Research Mentorship Award** (\$30,000 + tuition/fees): Year-long research with the goal of working with a faculty mentor on a project.
- **Dissertation Year Award** (\$30,000 + tuition/fees): Support while completing dissertation research and writing. Designed for the final year of the program.



Continuing Doctoral Student Awards at UCLA

- **Privately Endowed Awards** (various amounts): Awards from private funding based on specific research interests and student backgrounds. Explore details in the Graduate Student Financial Support booklet.
- **Undocumented Graduate Student Award** (various amounts): Merit-based award for undocumented students. Preference is given to students who are eligible for the AB 540 exemption.

Please refer to the [Graduate Student Financial Support \(ucla.edu\)](https://ucla.edu/graduate-student-financial-support) for more information.



Doctoral Travel Grant (DTG)

Each UCLA doctoral student is provided up to \$1,000 total reimbursement that can be used, in whole or in part, at any time through the student's 7th year in the doctoral program, as long as the student and the activities meet the eligibility requirements.

Award encourages doctoral students to present their work and network at conferences in their fields. Award also supports travel associated with off-campus research and enables students to take advantage of off-campus professional development opportunities.



AB540 and DACA Funding Eligibility

SUMMARY: FUNDING ELIGIBILITY FOR UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA GRADUATE STUDENTS WHO MEET AB540¹ and/or DACA² CRITERIA

	DOMESTIC ³ AB540: ✓	UNDOCUMENTED AB540 ⁴ : ✓ DACA: X	UNDOCUMENTED AB540 ⁴ : ✓ DACA: ✓	UNDOCUMENTED AB540 ⁴ : X DACA: ✓ (CA Non-Resident) Applicable for students in their 1 st year	UNDOCUMENTED AB540 ⁴ : X DACA: ✓ (CA Resident) ⁵ Applicable for students in their 2 nd year	UNDOCUMENTED AB540 ⁴ : X DACA: X
PERTINENT TUITION AND AID APPLICATION ELIGIBILITY						
Pay equivalent of in-state tuition/fees at CA public institutions	✓	✓	✓		✓	
Can apply for Federal Financial Aid using FAFSA	✓					
Can apply for Financial Aid using the California Dream Application https://dream.csac.ca.gov/		✓	✓			
AVAILABLE FUNDING						
Federal Aid (Grants, Loans, and Work-Study)	✓					
Institutional Grants and Loans	✓					
Institutional Fellowships: (Grad Div funding, CA State Funds)	✓	✓	✓			
Institutional Fellowships: ⁶ (Gift/Endowed/Private funds without citizenship restrictions)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Employment (Any funding source – does not include federal work-study except for domestic AB540)	✓ (includes work-study)		✓	✓	✓	

¹Students who, for various reasons, are classified as nonresidents of California, as well as undocumented students, may be eligible for AB540 status. http://ucop.edu/student-affairs/policies/universitywide-program-policies-and-guidelines/AB540.html#bi_3

²Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) provides certain undocumented young people with work authorization for a period of two years, subject to renewal.

³Domestic: Citizen, Permanent Resident or an individual not in possession of nonimmigrant visa.

⁴California Dream Act provides provisions that allow students who meet AB540 criteria to be eligible for UC and California aid programs. http://ucop.edu/student-affairs/_files/dream-act/ca-dream-act-uc.pdf

⁵Independent DACA students who cannot qualify for AB540 status should be encouraged to seek state residency, since as state residents they will no longer be subject to paying Non-Resident Supplemental Tuition. DACA students who qualify for AB540 status should not seek to be classified as state residents, as they will lose their eligibility for institutional grants and fellowships by doing so because state residents cannot qualify for AB540 status. http://ucop.edu/general-counsel/_files/ed-affairs/uc-residence-policy.pdf

⁶Allowable under California State Budget SEC. 2. Section 66021.9 (a), (b), and (c) https://leginfo.ca.gov/faces/billTextClient.xhtml?bill_id=201920200AB77. Those scholarship provisions are extended under California AB-132 Postsecondary education trailer bill. This bill extends the end dates by two years, effective until June 30, 2023. https://leginfo.ca.gov/faces/billTextClient.xhtml?bill_id=202120220AB132

KEY TAKEAWAYS

Take the time to look for funding opportunities – bit of research goes a long way!

Apply for anything and everything you are eligible for and keep notes about awards at different stages of your program.

Seek feedback on your application materials.

Review instructions *close*ly and triple check your work.

Apply 1 year in advance.





Thank you and good luck!

1228 Murphy Hall / *askgrad@grad.ucla.edu*

For more information, please visit: <https://grad.ucla.edu/funding/#/>