



Graduate College

**Presidential Fellowship Program Information
Fall 2020 Recruitment for Fall 2021
Enrollment**

Eligibility and Award Conditions

The Presidential Fellowship Program (PFP) considers nominations of outstanding, incoming PhD students for these prestigious awards. We are authorized to award up to 15 fellowships annually to truly exceptional students. While we advertise the program in appropriate venues, the best approach is for faculty members to reach out to colleagues at other institutions, inquiring about their top performing students, who are interested in beginning a PhD program in Fall. Recruitment for the PFP is intended to be completed early in the recruitment cycle.

Assuming satisfactory progress, the fellowship provides eight consecutive semesters of support, which is nonrenewable. The fellowship stipend is \$4,000 per semester (\$8,000 per academic year), in addition to the academic year graduate assistantship stipend of at least \$15,000. Additional benefits include \$1,000 research funding per year, 100% tuition remission, and health insurance. Students are responsible for all university and course fees.

Presidential Fellows must enroll for a minimum of nine program-related credit hours each semester. Fellows are expected to attend at least 1 professional development workshop per semester, hosted by the NAU Graduate College.

For Fellows graduating prior to the expiration of their Presidential Fellowship, the funding will terminate at the end of the semester of graduation.

Fall 2020 Recruitment Timeline

The PFP Review Committee, consisting of deans or designees from each college with eligible programs as well as a representative of the Office of Research, will consider fellowship nominations beginning November 2, 2020. Approximately 3 review sessions will be held between November 2 and February 26, when we hope to have successfully recruited the next cohort of Fellows to NAU. Each eligible program will have a PFP award reserved until December 7, in order to make sure that all programs can have nominations considered.

Criteria

Potential Fellows are evaluated for outstanding potential to achieve in doctoral programs, based on criteria, which include:

- High academic achievement.
- Scholarly/research achievement in the form of papers, book chapters, review articles, presentations, lectures, etc. relevant to the discipline.
- Letters of recommendation indicating academic/research performance and future potential.
- Ability of the candidate to communicate the significance and impact of their planned research.
- Significant leadership roles, outreach, and interdisciplinary activity.

Nomination Instructions

Nominees must be nominated by program faculty. Nominators should interview the students (typically, remotely; no travel funds are available this year), and the nominee must have applied for admission, met all unit requirements for acceptance, and been offered admission and a graduate assistantship position prior to departments submitting the PFP nomination packet to the Graduate College.

The following information should be compiled into one PDF document and submitted by the graduate coordinator or department chair to GradAwards@nau.edu with the following subject and file name:

- Subject: PFP Nomination **Department: Last Name of Student, First Name of Student**
- PDF File Name: PFP_Nomination_**Department_StudentLastName**

PLEASE NOTE: Beginning this year, in order to simplify preparation of nomination packages, we will accept items 2 through 5 from the student's application, if they are included in it. You do not, for example, need to ask the student for a specifically formatted CV, if all of their productivity, experience, and accomplishment information is readily apparent in the application materials. Similarly, if the student has already prepared a professional statement as part of the application, and you consider it to be strong, you can submit it. If this is the case, please compile the relevant parts of the application into a PDF and submit it. If any of items 2 through 5 are not a readily apparent part of the application, they must be included in the nomination PDF. All nominations must include item 6, the writing sample.

1. Coversheet: The Graduate College will provide a link to the coversheet, once it has been updated.
2. Professional Statement: The nominee should describe his/her interest in the field of study and how it aligns with personal and professional goals, not to exceed two pages. The narrative should address the impact of the student's planned work, the proposed research or creative work and its implications, and the intended trajectory beyond the degree.
3. Curriculum vitae
4. Unofficial transcript(s)
5. Three letters of recommendation: Letters should address: the qualities that set this student apart from others in the program, the significance of the scholarly or creative research, and how the nominee would contribute to research productivity at NAU. One letter from the program should describe the outstanding qualities of both the nominee and his or her research or creative work. The NAU chair, program coordinator, or faculty mentor should provide this. The other two letters should be from faculty/mentors (can be from previous institutions) best qualified to comment on the student's scholarship and research goals.
6. Sample of research or creative work in electronic format: This could be a scholarly article, conference paper, a chapter from a Master's thesis, or review article. If the sample work has multiple authors/contributors, the nominee should detail their contribution to the work. Dissertation proposals or qualifying exams are not generally acceptable samples.

Research / Professional Development funding

Each Fellow is eligible for up to \$1,000 per year in research /professional development support. This can be used for any appropriate expense, although travel is not encouraged this year. Programs should cover the student's costs, then submit receipts to the Graduate College for reimbursement.