Center for Inclusive Education
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December 19th, 2023

The Center for Inclusive Education is pleased to announce this year's call for nominations for the Dr. W. Burghardt Turner Fellowship. This fellowship recruits Stony Brook University students of high academic promise from groups historically underrepresented in graduate study and the professoriate.

We anticipate extending approximately 30 offers to yield around 15 new Turner Fellows for Fall 2024. A maximum of **five** (5) nominations will be considered per graduate or medical program.

Eligibility

The eligibility criteria for nominees are as follows:
1. Nominees must be US Citizens or Permanent Residents who will contribute to the diversity of the student body.
2. The focus of the Turner Fellowship is to support students in pursuit of terminal degrees. Therefore, doctoral applicants are given highest consideration for awards. A very limited number of master's fellowship nominees will be considered with strong justification.
3. The State University of New York Office for Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (ODEI) offers these graduate fellowships to students who have been admitted to graduate or professional study and who will contribute to the diversity of the student body in the graduate or professional program in which enrollment is sought. Thus, programs may consider nominating students who are of a race or ethnicity historically underrepresented in its discipline or profession, as well as many intersecting facets of diversity and representation in the nominees such as socioeconomic status, veteran or military status, invisible/visible disability, gender, gender identity, sexual orientation, etc. If you have any questions regarding the Turner Fellowship or the eligibility of a candidate, please contact us at 631-632-1385 or TurnerFellowships@stonybrook.edu.

Departmental Support Requirements

In order to be eligible for a Turner Fellowship, nominees must have already received an offer of admission to the program with full financial support. Ideally, nominees will have already received their offer of admission (and offer letter) from the program before the February 2nd Turner deadline.

- Full financial support implies an agreement to provide a full TA/GA/RA line for PhD programs or ½ TA/GA/RA line for Master's students, plus a full tuition scholarship for the duration of the fellowship period. **For full consideration, departments must demonstrate a commitment to maintain full TA/GA/RA line support to Turner awardees – Turner funding may not be used to reduce or offset your program's cost.**
- In recent years, some doctoral programs have found it preferable to divide the Turner supplement support differently over the five-year period. The CIE is open to alternative funding structures to recruit Turner Fellows in cases where the standard model has not yielded success.

Turner Award Structure

The duration of the Turner Fellowship award is five years for doctoral students, four years for medical school students, up to three years for MFA students, and up to two years for terminal master's students (contingent upon the length of the degree program). Students who have previously earned a master's degree or who are currently enrolled in a master's degree program and are applying to transition to the doctoral program are eligible for nomination.

The Turner Fellowship provides $50,000 ($40,000 for MD, up to $30,000 for the MFA and $20,000 for terminal, two-year masters degrees) in supplemental support to attract the best domestic applicants from underrepresented groups paid as a supplement to program-level support (assistantship, stipend, tuition scholarship, etc.).

Authorized Offers and Backstopping Process

As in the past, graduate programs that submit one or more Turner nominations may make one additional offer beyond their number of authorized offers under the backstopping process. For example, a program that is allocated 5 lines with an offer ratio of 3 will be allowed to make 15 offers in addition to their top Turner nominee. This means that your top Turner nominee will not count against your authorized offers. This does not mean, however, that your program will receive an additional TA line if a Turner Fellowship is awarded. If your program over-recruits, your extra lines will have to be paid back via the backstopping process. The purpose of this fellowship is to allow you to go after top diverse applicants, recognizing that the conversion of such offers is often lower.

Funding Appointment Process

The CIE will continue with the Turner funding appointment process used in recent years. **Departments no longer fill out the Turner supplement amount on their State Appointment form, nor do they fill out a separate RF Fellowship form for the Turner portion of the stipend package.** The CIE will disburse stipend supplements as a financial aid post via the student's SOLAR account, in increments over the fall and spring semesters. For students who are in a stand-alone, Turner-supported fellowship year, the CIE will process their appointment paperwork as a full Graduate Assistant. We will continue to provide detailed procedural information as the need arises.

Nomination Procedures - *NEW*

We have updated our nomination procedures to better ensure equity across nominees and departments. All application materials will be managed through the online InfoReady nomination portal (*the nomination portal will open on January 1, 2024*). **Programs are no longer required to submit GPD nomination letters.** Instead, departments will provide relevant information in the form of short-answer and multiple-choice questions. After departments submit their online nominations, each nominee will be automatically emailed and prompted to submit their "Turner Statement" information, which is now in the form of sociodemographic and short-answer response questions. **Information submitted by the nominee will not be viewable by the department.**

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Deadlines

Date and time	Task
Monday, January 1, 2024	Nomination portal will open for graduate and professional programs to submit their nominations: https://stonybrook.infoready4.com/#freeformCompetitionDetail/1923872
Friday, January 26, 2023 *11:59 PM (ET)*	Departments must identify the nominee(s) in SLATE using the fellowship nomination button for "Turner Fellowship" no later than 11:59 PM (ET). Instructions are attached. Programs that do not fall under the Graduate Program instance in SLATE must email the names of intended nominees to TurnerFellowships@stonybrook.edu.
Friday, February 2, 2024 *11:59 PM (ET)*	Graduate Program Directors must submit all nomination packets in the InfoReady portal no later than 11:59 PM (ET). Each program may nominate up to five (5) students. *Note: Ideally nominees will have received their offer of admission and offer letter from the program before this February 2nd deadline, because once the department's nomination is submitted, the nominee will automatically receive a link to submit their information.*
Friday, February 9, 2024 *11:59 PM (ET)*	Student nominees must submit their Turner nomination information in the InfoReady portal no later than 11:59 PM (ET). Nominees will receive an emailed link immediately after departments submit their nomination packets in InfoReady.
Mid-February 2024	Turner Fellowship Advisory Committee will meet to select awardees.
End of February 2024	Awardees will be announced.

Nomination Instructions for Graduate Program Directors

A maximum of **five** nominations will be considered per graduate or medical program.

Please note that Turner Statement information will be collected from the nominees directly. However, you are welcome to let them know that they are being nominated for a Turner Fellowship, and that they will receive an email from InfoReady prompting them to complete the process. Nominees may contact the Turner Program team anytime with questions or concerns.

Graduate Program Directors must submit the following materials for each nominee:

1. Full name and preferred email address for the nominated student.
2. A copy of the nominee's Offer of Admission Letter and Offer of Financial Support signed by the Graduate Program Director. **Programs are also encouraged to provide comparative data with peer institutions as a reference point for comparison of the Turner offer.**
3. Nominee's graduate school application in PDF format. If another application portal is used instead of SLATE, programs should submit one PDF containing the nominee's online application, personal statement, transcripts, and letters of recommendation.
4. **In lieu of a GPD nomination letter,** Graduate Program Directors will answer the following questions in InfoReady (feel free to prepare your answers separately prior to January 1st):
   Short answer questions:
   - **How will awarding this student a Turner Fellowship contribute to the diversity, equity, inclusion, and access within your department/field?** This DEIA context can reference systemic disadvantages or other impediments to the success of scholars who have been historically underrepresented in higher education. We encourage you to use evidence to support your argument(s). (300 words or less)
   - Answer the prompts below to tell us the ways in which the program will support the retention of the Turner nominee in their first year and beyond:
     - **Describe your department's academic support plans** (e.g., peer tutoring, academic advising). (100 words or less)
     - **Describe your department's research support plans** (e.g., milestone map and proposed timeline, IDP development). (100 words or less)
     - **Describe your department's social support plans** (e.g., community-building events, mentor program). (100 words or less)
   Multiple choice question:
   - **In terms of their research experience and academic preparedness, where does this nominee fall compared to the students typically admitted into your program?** Average (top 40%), Above average (top 30%), Outstanding (top 10%)
   Optional question:
   - **Is there anything else you would like us to know about this nominee?** (100 words or less)

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Instructions for Nominated Students

After the department submits the nominee's information through the online portal, nominees will be automatically emailed with a submission link where they can enter their information. **Nominees are no longer required to write a Turner Statement**.

Nominees will enter the following information via InfoReady:

- Copy of their CV or resume (PDF format)
- Answers to demographic and socioeconomic multiple-choice questions
- Answers to the following short-answer prompts (they can type or copy-and-paste answers directly into the submission portal website):
    1. How do you see yourself engaging with or bringing value to the Turner community? What do you hope to gain from your membership in the Turner community? (100 words or less)
    2. How will you, your academic research, or your clinical work contribute to the diversity, inclusion, and access within your field? (100 words or less)
    3. Why is the advancement of historically underrepresented groups in graduate education important? (150 words or less)
    4. What leadership, service, volunteer, and/or community-building experiences have you had? We are interested in formal and informal experiences. (150 words or less)
    5. The Turner Fellowship supports students who contribute to the diversity of the student body and/or have overcome an impediment to success in higher education. What hardships or disadvantages have you faced in pursuit of your education? How have you grown from your experiences? (200 words or less)

Departments are welcome to share these questions with nominee(s) in advance so they can prepare their answers as early as possible. Please note that **nominees will receive an emailed link to enter the information into the application portal directly**.

Contact information

If you encounter problems compiling or sending the electronic nomination package, please contact Rosalia Davi, Turner Program Manager, at (631) 632-1385 or TurnerFellowships@stonybrook.edu.