

# Biograd Funding Guide

There are a lot of funding opportunities available to Biology graduate students! Please see below for summary information and web links with details on each award.

## **OVERVIEW OF AID AVAILABLE**

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Various forms of financial assistance are available to graduate students at FIU. Note that the summary below is not exhaustive and may change as funding streams change. The University Graduate School serves as a core resource for graduate funding information with additional support by CASE. Regular updates to the Graduate Program Policies and Procedures manual are expected to assist navigation of funding opportunities.

## GRADUATE ASSISTANTSHIP LINES

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Assistantship lines are issued to full-time students by the Department of Biological Sciences. The program manages Research assistantships (RA), Graduate Assistantships (GA) and Teaching assistantships (TA). RA and GA lines are supported on an individual basis by grant monies that the major professors have secured for their labs, and are issued specifically per the discretion and authorization of the major professor. TA lines are issued to the program by CASE on an annual basis. Both Master's and Doctoral students are eligible for RA and GA lines, whereas only Doctoral students are eligible for TA lines.

Graduate assistantships are renewed each term. An assistantship can be renewed for up to four years for PhD students. Satisfactory progress toward the degree and a 3.0 GPA are required for renewal. TA lines are currently capped at a maximum of 5 years duration per person, extended only in extraordinary situations. Please note that acceptance of an assistantship is formalized by signing a contract with the university that requires students to decline and/all outside employment. Further details of assistantship information are found here: <https://gradschool.fiu.edu/students/funding/assistantships/>  
<https://case.fiu.edu/about/resources/current-students/graduate-students/graduate-assistantships/>

## SELF-SUPPORT

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Any student who is holding employment outside the graduate program is considered to be a self-supported student. Self-support also includes cases where students have accepted loans and/or need-based grants as a support basis for participating in the graduate program. Note that a FAFSA form must be submitted to be considered for loans and need-based grants. See the following links for more information about self-support in the form of loans and need-based grants.

Office of Financial Aid: <https://onestop.fiu.edu/finances/>

Graduate need grant: <https://onestop.fiu.edu/finances/types-of-aid/grants/institutional-grants/>

FAFSA submission: <https://onestop.fiu.edu/finances/applying-for-aid/submit-the-fafsa/>

# FELLOWSHIP AWARDS

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Fellowships are awarded to graduate students by various entities outside the Department. Institutional fellowships are awarded by CASE as well as UGS. External fellowships are issued by sources outside of the university. These awards are for MS and/or PhD students, as specified by the fellowship announcement. PhD students who were admitted with a TA allocation in place, that has not yet been fully utilized at the time of a fellowship being awarded, are allowed to defer use of the TA line. The Graduate Program Office also advises students to request “POI access” from HR if switching over from an assistantship to a fellowship line, to ensure continuity of access to institutional resources that require an employee-based Login and Password. Summary details about fellowships and other awards available to graduate students in the Department of Biological Sciences are provided below. Dissertation completion awards are indicated by yellow highlighting.

## FELLOWSHIPS FOR PROSPECTIVE STUDENTS

### College (CASE) Funds for Prospective Students

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- ❖ **Dean’s Distinguished Doctoral Fellowship in STEM:** must apply prior to admission to the PhD program (January deadline)  
<https://fiu.academicworks.com/> (search for related keywords to find the announcement)

### University Graduate School Funds for Prospective Students

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- ❖ **Undergraduate to Graduate Program (UtGP):** open to FIU juniors and seniors graduating at least 5 months post-award (October deadline).  
<https://gradschool.fiu.edu/students/funding/fellowships/#prospectivestudents>
- ❖ **Below are fellowships open to prospective students who are department-nominated**  
Award details: <https://gradschool.fiu.edu/students/funding/fellowships/#prospectivestudents>  
The strongest candidates for these awards have a completed application plus a faculty sponsor letter on file with the graduate program *by January 5<sup>th</sup>*.
  - **Presidential Fellowship:** for students with potential to become outstanding PhD scholars at FIU.
  - **UGS Veterans Fellowship:** provides support to veterans desiring to pursue their PhD at FIU.

### External Funds for Prospective Students (UGS-managed)

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- ❖ **Graduate Fellowships in Engineering and Science (GEM Fellowship):** supports preparation of underrepresented minority students to work in industry. Open to aspiring Master’s and Doctoral students aiming to pursue a future career in industry. Award requires 1-2 summers of internship with a prospective GEM employer (October deadline).  
<https://www.gemfellowship.org/gem-fellowship-program/#a>
- ❖ **McKnight Doctoral Fellowship:** supports underrepresented minorities in science who are pursuing their Doctorate (January deadline). <https://www.fefonline.org/mdfapply/>

## External Funds for Prospective Students (not managed by UGS)

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- ❖ **Fulbright Foreign Student Program:** open to international applicants set to pursue either a Master's or Doctoral degree. \*Note that details and deadlines may vary by country of origin. <https://foreign.fulbrightonline.org/about/foreign-student-program>
- ❖ **Hagan International Scholarship:** open to international applicants who are also first-time applicants to graduate school. These funds are awarded to high-achieving, goal-driven individuals with substantial financial need (March deadline). <https://haganscholarships.org/international-scholars/application/>

## FELLOWSHIPS FOR PROSPECTIVE/CURRENT STUDENTS

### Additional External Funding Opportunities (not managed by UGS)

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- ❖ **Department of Energy Computational Science Graduate Fellowship (CSGF):** open to senior undergrads and Master's students who plan to pursue their doctorate. Also open to first year Doctoral students who recently did their master's at a different department/institution (January deadline) <https://www.krellinst.org/csgf/about-doe-csgf/eligibility-program-requirements>
- ❖ **Department of Energy Science Graduate Student Research (SCGSR) Program:** open to Doctoral students who have completed their proposal milestone and are working in a topic area that support the DOE Office of Science mission. Award supports students in completing part of their dissertation project at a DOE laboratory/facility, for up to 1 year. The award provides \$3000/month and \$2000 toward travel (deadline early May). <https://science.osti.gov/wdts/scgsr>
- ❖ **Ford Foundation Fellowship Programs (predoctoral and early doctoral):** open to Doctoral students with research/teaching/diversity emphasis in career goals (December deadline). <https://www.nationalacademies.org/our-work/ford-foundation-fellowships>
- ❖ **Hertz Fellowship:** open to prospective and current Doctoral students whose work addresses real-world challenges. The award provides up to 5 years of funding, capped at \$250,000 (October deadline). <https://www.hertzfoundation.org/the-fellowship/eligibility-benefits/#section-eligibility>
- ❖ **Nancy Foster Scholarship Program:** recognizes outstanding scholarship and encourages independent graduate level research in marine sciences. Open to prospective applicants as well as up to mid-career students pursuing Master's and Doctoral degrees (pre-application due October). <https://fosterscholars.noaa.gov/>
- ❖ **National Defense Science and Engineering Graduate Fellowship Program (NDSEG):** open to graduate school applicants, Master's students and Doctoral students early in their studies. Project focal area must align with topics discussed in the DoD's broad agency announcements (August to December deadline). <https://ndseg.sysplus.com/NDSEG/About/>

## FELLOWSHIPS FOR CURRENT STUDENTS

### University Graduate School Funds for Current Students

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Note that applications open fall/spring/summer for the listings below.

Details and deadlines here: <https://gradschool.fiu.edu/students/funding/fellowships/#currentstudents>

- ❖ **Doctoral Evidence Acquisition Fellowship (DEA):** open to Doctoral students who lack financial support for evidence acquisition or whose current means of financial support would otherwise disrupt the student's ability to collect evidence for their research work.
- ❖ **Dissertation Fellowship (DF):** open to Doctoral students who have finished collecting data and need focused time to write and defend their dissertations.

### External Fellowships for Current Students (managed by UGS)

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- ❖ **Howard Hughes Medical Center Gilliam Fellowships for Advanced Study:** open to underrepresented minorities in their second/third year Doctoral students, *nominated by FIU*. This award provides support for 3 years, for advisor-student pairs who are studying scientific problems in life science disciplines including plant biology, evolutionary biology, biophysics, chemical biology, biomedical engineering, and computational biology (September deadline?).  
<https://www.hhmi.org/programs/gilliam-fellows>

### External Fellowships for Current Students (not managed by UGS)

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- ❖ **American Association of University Women Fellowships:** listed out by program stage
  - **AAUW International Fellowship:** open to Master's or Doctoral students who meet the award criteria. Master's award is \$20,000, and Doctoral award is \$25,000 (mid-November deadline).  
<https://www.aauw.org/resources/programs/fellowships-grants/international/>
  - **AAUW Dissertation Fellowship:** open to late-stage female Doctoral students. Award amount is \$25,000 (mid-November deadline).  
<https://www.aauw.org/resources/programs/fellowships-grants/american/>
- ❖ **American Heart Association Predoctoral Fellowship:** open to Doctoral students working on basic and translational research to support longer, healthier lives (September deadline).  
<https://professional.heart.org/en/research-programs/aha-funding-opportunities/predoctoral-fellowship>
- ❖ **Department of Defense Scholarship-for-Service Program:** open to Master's and Doctoral students planning for a DOD career (August deadline). <https://www.smartscholarship.org/smart>
- ❖ **Fairchild Tropical Botanic Garden Graduate Fellowship:** Up to 3 years of support for Doctoral students, to work with the Fairchild Garden's Education Department (deadline April, unless extended to May). <https://fairchildgarden.org/science-and-education/learn/graduate-fellowship/>
- ❖ **FIU ForEverglades Scholarship:** open to Master's and Doctoral students in the Institute of Environment (July deadline). <https://environment.fiu.edu/get-involved/foreverglades-scholarship/>

- ❖ **FIU Rookery Bay Assistantship:** this award is conferred upon 1 graduate student per year for research activity in the Rookery Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve (deadline is mid-March). Award covers stipend, tuition, and up to \$5000 in room, boat, supplies and/or travel costs. <https://environment.fiu.edu/get-involved/fiu-rookery-bayresearch-and-education-graduate-assistantship/>
- ❖ **Florida Education Fund Dissertation Fellowship:** supports underrepresented minorities in science who are pursuing their Doctorate. To be eligible for this award, the dissertation proposal must already be defended/approved (late spring deadline, possibly May). <https://www.fefonline.org/df.html>
- ❖ **Fulbright US Student Program:** for Master's/Doctoral students who will be doing research outside the U.S. for 1 year (October deadline). <https://us.fulbrightonline.org/fulbright-us-student-program>
- ❖ **National Institute of Health Ruth L. Kirschstein Predoctoral Fellowship:** open to Doctoral students working on health-related research relevant to one of the participating funding centers such as NCI, NHGRI, NHLBI, NIA, and NIAID (applications due April, August, December). <https://researchtraining.nih.gov/programs/fellowships/F31>
- ❖ **National Institute of Justice Graduate Research Fellowship Program:** open to STEM Doctoral students whose research is relevant to criminal or juvenile justice (April deadline). <https://nij.ojp.gov/funding/fellowships/graduate-research-fellowship-program>
- ❖ **National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Margaret A Davidson Graduate Fellowship:** open to Master's and Doctoral students with at least 2 years left until completion of the degree (December deadline). <https://coast.noaa.gov/nerrs/research/davidson-fellowship.html>
- ❖ **National Science Foundation, Arctic Doctoral Dissertation Research Improvement Grants Arctic Social Sciences, Arctic System Sciences, and Arctic Observing Network (DDRIG):** supports Doctoral research on biological, physical and geochemical components of the Arctic ecosystem (upcoming deadline: May). <https://www.nsf.gov/funding/opportunities/ddrig-arctic-doctoral-dissertation-research-improvement-grants>
- ❖ **National Science Foundation, Human-Environment and Geographical Sciences Program - Doctoral Dissertation Research Improvement Awards (HEGS-DDRI):** support for Doctoral students who are studying how human activity and/or environmental effects on spatial ecology (proposals accepted on a rolling basis). <https://www.nsf.gov/funding/opportunities/hegs-ddri-human-environment-geographical-sciences-program-doctoral>
- ❖ **National Science Foundation, Graduate Research Fellowship Program (GRFP):** open to Master's and Doctoral students in the first year or beginning the second year of graduate training (October deadline). <https://www.nsfgrfp.org/>
- ❖ **Schlumberger Foundation – Faculty for the Future:** open to female Doctoral from developing and emerging economies, per award criteria. The award provides up to \$50,000 (deadline early November). <https://schlumbergerfoundation.com>
- ❖ **Smithsonian awards:** listed out by program stage
  - **Smithsonian 10-week Graduate Fellowships:** open to pre-candidacy Doctoral students who have completed at least one semester. Supports student pursuit of independent research. Award provides \$10,000 (deadline mid-October). <https://fellowships.si.edu/opportunity/smithsonian-institution-fellowship-program-sifp>

- **Smithsonian Institution Fellowship Program (SIFP):** open to Doctoral students who passed their proposal milestone, doing research related to Smithsonian collections/facilities/research interests. Award provides \$45,000 per year, for up to 1 year (deadline mid-October).  
<https://fellowships.si.edu/opportunity/smithsonian-institution-fellowship-program-sifp>

## **ADDITIONAL SCHOLARSHIPS AND AWARDS**

### UGS Funds for Current Students

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Details and deadlines here: <https://gradschool.fiu.edu/students/funding/fellowships/#currentstudents>

- ❖ **Provost Degree Completion Fellowship:** open to Doctoral students who are nearly finished with their degrees, have run out of assistantship/fellowship funding, and are facing financial circumstances that stand to disrupt continuous enrollment. This is specifically a tuition waiver award. Applications open fall/spring/summer for this award and are usually announced by email.
- ❖ **Provost Employer Supported Tuition Fellowship:** open to Doctoral students whose employers are paying their assistantship, or are allocating time to the degree. This is specifically a tuition waiver award. Applications open fall/spring/summer for this award and are usually announced by email.
- ❖ **UGS Writing Fellows Program:** open to Doctoral students who commit 2 semesters of service as writing facilitators for the grad program (October deadline).

### External Funds for Current Students (not managed by UGS)

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- ❖ **Botanical Society of America:** many opportunities for graduate students, including (but not limited to) the listings shared below (deadlines vary by award). Note that the BSA membership is required for some of the awards. <https://awards.botany.org>
  - **BSA Impact Award:** recognizes impactful work that supports a diverse community of engaged scholars, such as by affecting practices/policies, enabling access to knowledge/resources. Award is \$1000 and a plaque. Note this award is specifically by nomination (deadline: late April).
  - **BSA Botanical Advocacy and Service event:** open to graduate students whose work is connecting the public, and/or policy makers to the botanical sciences, inclusive of shaping public policy. Award is \$1000 (deadline early spring).
  - **Donald R. Kaplan Dissertation Award in Comparative Morphology:** open to post-candidacy students who are working on plant comparative morphology. The award provides up to \$10,000 for equipment, supplies, research travel, conference travel and/or summer support (deadline early Feb).
  - **Graduate Student Dissertation Award in Phylogenetic Comparative Plant Biology:** supports post-candidacy students whose projects address phylogeny, trait evolution, and biotic relationships between lineages. The award provides up to \$10,000 for equipment, supplies, research travel, conference travel and/or summer support (deadline early February).
  - **Graduate Student Research Award:** \$1500 to support graduate student research in the botanical sciences (deadline mid-February).
- ❖ **CUAHSI Let's Talk About Water grant program:** provides up to \$7500 reimbursement of costs to graduate students to promote discussion of water science via film (refer to website for current deadlines). <https://www.cuahsi.org/lets-talk-about-water>

- ❖ **Florida Native Plant Society awards:** available to graduate students, described below (annual deadlines: end of February). <https://www.fnps.org/what-we-do/awards/research>

- **FNPS Endowment Grant program:** awards up to \$2500 for research that promotes preservation, conservation, and restoration of Florida native plants.
- **FNPS Conservation Grants:** up to \$5000 for research on preservation, conservation, or restoration of rare or imperiled native plants. Project must be sponsored by a local FNPS chapter.
- **FNPS Dan Austin Grant for Ethnobotany:** for research on Florida native plant species/communities with a human/plant connection. Amount of award not specified.

- ❖ **Sea Grant awards:** awards open to graduate students are below (deadlines vary by award).

**Florida Sea Grant awards:** <https://www.flseagrant.org/student-opportunities/>

- **Aylesworth Scholarship:** aims to support the best and brightest graduate students who are doing marine sciences research. The award provides \$2,500 per semester, for every semester in graduate school, pending satisfactory progress to the degree (Early June deadline).
- **FSG-Guy Harvey Fellowship:** for graduate students who are studying sustainable management of marine fish. Award is \$5000, plus up to \$1500 toward travel and professional development after the initial award (Mid-July deadline).
- **National Marine Fisheries Service & Sea Grant Joint Fellowship:** open to grad students who are studying population and ecosystem dynamics and/or marine resource economics. Note the awardee works closely with a mentor from NOAA Fisheries. Award is \$5000, plus up to \$1500 toward travel and professional development after the initial award (due by January, with notification of intent to apply at least a month before the deadline).

**NOAA Sea Grant award:**

- **John A Knauss Policy Fellowship Program:** open to graduate students whose projects involve studying ocean, coastal or great lakes, with an interest in how national policy affects those resources. The award funds a 1-year experience with Knauss “hosts” in Washington DC governmental offices. Stipend is \$45,700 (deadline is mid-April, with pre-notification of interest at least 2 weeks prior.)  
<https://seagrant.noaa.gov/communities/students/graduate-fellows/knauss-fellowship-program/>

- ❖ **Garden Club of America:** has funds open for graduate student research or travel, related to projects on botany, coastal wetlands, conservation, ecological restoration and pollinator research. Amounts range from \$3000-\$8000. Criteria vary, and application deadlines range from November-February, depending on which specific award is pursued. <https://www.gcamerica.org/scholarships/apply>
- ❖ **Graduate Women In Science (GWIS) National Fellowship:** Awards up to \$10,000 for female graduate students carrying out hypothesis-driven research in the life sciences (deadline early- to mid-January). [https://www.gwis.org/page/fellowship\\_apcheck](https://www.gwis.org/page/fellowship_apcheck)
- ❖ **Grass Foundation Fellowships:** Open to students near the end of their Doctorate, who wish to conduct 14 weeks of independent investigative work at the Marine Biology Laboratory at Woods Hole. Supported research areas include neurobiology, neurophysiology, neuroanatomy, neuropharmacology. Award provides a stipend, space, equipment, animals and \$3000 toward research supplies (Deadline mid-November). <https://grassfoundation.org/fellowship-overview/>
- ❖ **Hispanic Scholarship Fund:** open to Hispanic graduate students (preferentially in STEM fields) pursuing their first graduate degree. Application needs FAFSA information. The awards range \$500-\$5000 (February deadline). <https://www.hsf.net/scholarship>

- ❖ **International Palm Society Grant Award:** Awards from \$1000-\$5000 are available to graduate students who are studying various aspects of palm biology (deadline late November).  
<https://palms.org/resources/grants/>
- ❖ **Lewis and Clark Fund for Exploration and Field Research:** Awards up to \$5400 for Doctoral students to support collection of specimens and data. The budget should be used for travel and research expenses like field equipment (deadline early- to mid-November).
- ❖ **Sigma Xi Grant in Aid of Research:** provides up to \$5000 for graduate student Sigma Xi members, and up to \$1000 for graduate student non-members for scientific research (March deadline).  
<https://www.sigmaxi.org/programs/grants-in-aid-of-research>
- ❖ **Thermo Fisher Scientific Antibody Scholarship Program:** open to Master's and Doctoral students who have above 3.0 GPA (also had above 3.0 GPA as undergraduates). Awards run \$5000-\$10,000. Applications are accepted from January to May.  
<https://www.thermofisher.com/us/en/home/life-science/antibodies/thermo-fisher-scientific-antibody-scholarship-program.html>

## Travel Funds – open to all graduate students

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- ❖ **Botanical Society of America:** Offers on the order of 10 different travel awards per year, with amounts ranging from \$300-\$1500 (deadlines vary). <https://awards.botany.org>
- ❖ **College of Arts, Sciences and Education travel funds:** capped at \$200/student per year.  
[https://case.fiu.edu/about/resources/current-students/graduate-students/assets/travel\\_policy\\_feb2024.pdf](https://case.fiu.edu/about/resources/current-students/graduate-students/assets/travel_policy_feb2024.pdf)
- ❖ **CUAHSI: Pathfinder Graduate Student Fellowship:** Covers travel costs for water-related projects, up to \$5k. <https://www.cuahsi.org/grant-opportunities/pathfinder-fellowship>
- ❖ **Graduate and Professional Student Committee (GPSC) travel funds:** amount available per student varies, depending upon travel details and destination. Max amount is about \$750.  
<https://dasa.fiu.edu/all-departments/student-government-association/committees/graduate-professional-student-committee/>
- ❖ **Judith Evans Parker Travel Scholarships:** awards up to \$1,000 for international research in ecology/ environmental biology and management. Note the call for applications is usually issued by email each year (deadline is middle to end of March).
- ❖ **Kelly Foundation Tropical Botany Scholarship:** Covers travel and/or meeting expenses for students working on tropical plant science. Maximum amount \$500 (March deadline).  
<https://fiu.academicworks.com/> (search for related keywords to find the announcement)
- ❖ **Tinker Field Research Collaborative Grant:** capped at \$3000/applicant. Supports early-stage Doctoral students who need to conduct research in Spanish or Portuguese-speaking countries in Latin America and the Caribbean. Funds cover travel, transportation, per diem (February deadline).  
<https://lacc.fiu.edu/research/tinker-field-research-collaborative-grant/index.html>

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Please notify us of any other funding opportunities not listed here: [Biograd@fiu.edu](mailto:Biograd@fiu.edu)