



Call for Nominations, Spring 2019

The Madison and Lila Self Graduate Fellowship (SGF) offers a unique opportunity for students seeking a Ph.D. at The University of Kansas. SGF supports outstanding doctoral students in biological and biomedical sciences, business, economics, engineering, mathematics, pharmaceutical sciences, and physical sciences fields. SGF seeks student nominations from eligible departments for those who will begin work on a Ph.D. in the fall semester of 2019. First-year doctoral students may also be nominated for this award by their departments. Students who have been enrolled more than one year in a Ph.D. program at the time of nomination are not eligible. Contact the SGF office if you have questions regarding eligibility.

Nominations must be submitted by noon on January 30, 2019.

Please note that all nomination materials should be sent directly to departments and should be included in the nomination file. Nomination materials should not be emailed to SGF.

Award and Program Overview

Self Graduate Fellows receive a support package that in total exceeds \$175,000. New Self Graduate Fellows for 2019-2020 will receive \$30,500 each year for four years. Payment is through appointment as a graduate research assistant. The fellowship covers tuition, fees, and the employer's share of student health insurance costs. Fellows will also have access to a \$5,500 professional development award over the course of their four years in the program.

The Fellow Development Program is a distinctive feature of the fellowship. It provides general education and training in communication, management, innovation, and leadership to assist Self Graduate Fellows in preparation for future leadership roles, complementing the specialized education and training provided in Ph.D. programs. Fellow Development Program topics include oral and written communication, negotiation, teamwork, advocacy, ethics, leadership, business planning and development, financial management, human resources management, and project management, and more. The topics listed above occur over a four year sequence.

Program activities include two week-long skill sessions, biweekly luncheons, communication coaching workshops, lectures on public policy topics, and a government and science policy seminar in Washington, D.C. Fellows are expected to participate in the Fellow Development Program for four consecutive years. The time commitment is approximately 80 hours each year, plus preparation and travel time.

Nomination Guidelines

Who to nominate

SGF seeks individuals whose academic preparation, vision, and commitment to career goals match the Self Graduate Fellow profile. SGF guidelines direct the SGF Board of Trustees to select an entering class with a variety of career goals in the private sector, government, or higher education. No more than 20 percent of offers will go to students who indicate a preference for higher education.

Nominees must be U.S. citizens. Nominees must have received their first bachelor's degree within the last eight years (2011- 2019). Students who are invited to interview must submit proof of U.S. citizenship prior to the interview.



Self Graduate Fellow profile

Please read this paragraph thoroughly because the success of nominations - both the written portion and the oral interview - depends on the nominee's response to how the nominee fits these traits.

“The ideal candidate possesses unusual motivation, passion, and potential to make significant contributions to their profession and to society. In addition to a strong academic record, the candidate has leadership, communication, and decision-making skills. Should display personal attributes including self-awareness, emotional maturity, initiative, tenacity, energy, vision, risk-taking, and interpersonal effectiveness. The ideal candidate is interested in personal development and lifelong learning and is committed to participation in the Fellow Development Program.”

How to nominate

Please send the “Information for University of Kansas Self Graduate Fellowship (SGF) Nominees, Spring 2019” document to your nominees as soon as they have been identified. This document can be found at the back of this information packet. It contains directions for the SGF personal statement, which is one of the most important documents in the nomination process. The nomination file submitted by the department should include the SGF cover sheet provided in this document, the student's SGF personal statement and waiver form, a letter of nomination from the department, copies of the candidate's KU graduate school application, transcripts, GRE scores, application statement (to the department), resume, three SGF specific letters of recommendation, plus any other supporting materials from the department.

Selection process overview

Nominations are due by noon on January 30, 2019. Please note that nominations will be submitted electronically through the Admit system by the nominating department. Nomination files are reviewed by a team of faculty members and SGF staff. A thorough nomination file is very important. The SGF Board of Trustees reviews recommendations from the evaluation team and will decide who to invite for an interview. A brief telephone interview may also be used in the initial review.

Students selected for interviews will receive invitations by mid-February, 2019.

Interviewees will be invited to campus to visit departments and interview for the Self Graduate Fellowship, February 25-March 1, 2019. The SGF office will fund travel costs to and from Lawrence and lodging for maximum of two nights. The deadline for acceptance of offers is April 15, 2019.

For more information, visit the SGF website www.selfgraduate.ku.edu or contact the Self Graduate Fellowship office.

Madison and Lila Self Graduate Fellowship, University of Kansas
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Lawrence, KS 66045-7594
sgf@ku.edu
Phone (785) 864-7249
Fax (785) 864-0394

Self Graduate Fellowship Nomination Checklist

Each nomination file should include the information below, in the order listed:

- 1. Copy of KU graduate school application.
- 2. Student resume
This resume should highlight experiences, as opposed to a traditional academic vita. Significant achievements from work, volunteer projects, school, research, extracurricular activities, travel, and life experience should be listed.
- 3. Application statement from student to department (if required).
- 4. Copy of transcripts of all college or university work.
- 5. Copy of GRE scores. (Please check here if department does not require.)
- 6. Letters of recommendation for admission.
- 7. SGF Cover Sheet. (For use by departments that do not have access to the KU-Lawrence Admit system.)
- 8. Student's Self Graduate Fellowship personal statement.
- 9. Student's Access Waiver Form.
- 10. Letter of nomination from department. This may come from the chair or other faculty member.
- 11. Three letters of recommendation. (New letters should be submitted on letterhead.)

For new Ph.D. students

- These may come from the Ph.D. application file. However, one or two letters that address Self Graduate Fellow attributes will be more informative in considering the nomination. Letters may come from individuals identified by the students.

For currently enrolled first-year Ph.D. students

- At least one letter from a current KU faculty member.
- Other letters may come from the Ph.D. application file. However, one or two letters that address Self Graduate Fellow attributes will be more informative in considering the nomination. Letters may come from individuals identified by the students.

Prepared by _____ Email _____

Telephone _____ Date _____

Graduate Director Signature _____

Deadline: January 30, 2019, noon

For more information, visit the SGF website www.selfgraduate.ku.edu or email sgf@ku.edu.

Information for University of Kansas Departments, Spring 2019

Self Graduate Fellowship Personal Statement

Students should submit their SGF personal statements to the nominating department. This will allow departments to have access to all student application materials as they compile the nomination file for submission into the Admit system. Please note that all files will be submitted electronically through Admit. Departments may set their own deadlines for requesting this statement from students.

Nominations are due by noon on January 30th, 2019.

Student Resume

All nominees for 2019 must submit a resume. This should be distinguished from a traditional academic vita. This document should highlight experiences and significant achievements from work, school, volunteer projects, and extracurricular activities. Awards and honors, and research experiences should be listed. Memberships and offices held should be noted as well.

Letters of Recommendation

Departments are encouraged to contact students who apply to the Ph.D. program. This may give the department the opportunity to more aggressively recruit the candidate and get additional information regarding the student's wider range of experiences. Departments may choose to ask the student to contact someone outside of higher education to write a letter of recommendation. The person being asked to write the letter may be given the following:

“Outstanding Ph.D. students may be nominated for the prestigious Self Graduate Fellowship. Please describe this individual’s motivation, passion, and potential to make significant contributions to their profession and to society. A successful nominee will have strong record of leadership and decision-making skills. They will display personal attributes that include self-awareness, emotional maturity, initiative, tenacity, energy, vision, risk-taking, and interpersonal effectiveness.”

Departments may also choose to add a similar statement on their own application forms.

Goal for Nomination Process

Please note that all files will be submitted electronically through Admit. The nomination file must accurately reflect the student's fit for the Self Graduate Fellowship and alignment with the fellowship mission. The Self Graduate Fellowship aims to interview approximately 25 nominees. The fellowship currently has 39 Self Graduate Fellows, and class size varies from year to year.

We thank you for your efforts.

Please direct questions to sgf@ku.edu.