



Call for Nominations, Spring 2021

Self Graduate Fellowship Information for University of Kansas Departments

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 2021. 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 CST on February 3, 2021.

Please note that all nomination materials will be sent directly to departments for compilation and final submission. Nomination materials should not be emailed to SGF. Fellowship nominations are submitted by department staff using the Admit System.

Award and Program Overview

Self Graduate Fellows receive a support package that in total exceeds \$180,000. New Self Graduate Fellows for 2021-2022 will receive \$32,000 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, an alumni mentor program, 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.

Department 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.

Fellowship nominees must:

- Be U.S. citizens
- Have been admitted into one of the SGF eligible disciplines
- Received their first bachelor's degree within the last eight years (January 2013-2021)
- Be an incoming or first-year Ph.D. student at the time of nomination

Students invited to interview will be required to submit proof of U.S. citizenship prior to the interview.

Note: Due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, interviews will be conducted virtually via Zoom.

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 “Prospective Fellow Information, Spring 2021” document to your student nominees as soon as they have been identified. This will allow students to begin preparing their nomination materials to be submitted alongside the department nomination. An outline of the student materials required for nomination can be found at the back of this information packet and on the “Faculty/Staff Resources” tab on our website. 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 CST on February 3, 2021. 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.

Students selected for interviews will receive invitations by mid-February 2021.

Interviewees will be invited to interview for the Self Graduate Fellowship during the week of March 1-5, 2021. Interviews are one hour long. Due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, interviews will be conducted via Zoom. Campus visits will not be coordinated or funded by the Self Graduate Fellowship.

The Self Graduate Fellowship aims to interview approximately 25 nominees. The fellowship currently has 43 Self Graduate Fellows, however interview invitations and formal offer size varies from year to year.

The deadline for student acceptance of offers is April 15, 2021. Students are strongly encouraged to notify SGF and departments of their decision as soon as possible as this may affect other student offers. Departments should maintain communication and regularly update SGF with nominee information or decisions collected within the department.

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

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Self Graduate Fellowship Nomination Cover Sheet, Spring 2021

Nominating department _____

Name of nominee _____

Current address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Email _____ Telephone _____

Proposed mentor _____

Email _____ Telephone _____

GRE score and % (if available) _____
Verbal Quantitative Analytical

Undergraduate institution _____ Degree _____

Year degree awarded (anticipated) _____ GPA _____

*Please note the date of the nominee's first bachelor's degree must be between January 2013-2021.

Graduate institution _____ Degree _____

Year degree awarded (anticipated) _____ GPA _____

Date of first graduate enrollment at KU _____ KUID _____

Is nominee currently a KU graduate student? Yes No Degree sought _____

Other support or other fellowship awarded or applied for? Please list. _____

Is student a U.S. Citizen? yes no *Nominees must be U.S. citizens.*

Note: Each nomination should be submitted separately.

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Self Graduate Fellowship Nomination Checklist

Each nomination should include the following files. Please compile the packet in the order listed below.

- 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: February 3, 2021 by noon CST

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

Outline of the Required Student Nomination Materials:

Please note that all student materials will need to be collected and then submitted by the department electronically through the Admit System. Departments may set their own deadlines for requesting student materials. Nominations are due by noon CST on February 3, 2021.

1. Self Graduate Fellowship Personal Statement

The SGF personal statement is critical to student success in the Self Graduate Fellowship selection process. This is their opportunity to demonstrate how they fit the profile of a Self Graduate Fellow. The statement should be authentic and should tell the student's story in their own words. The SGF Personal Statement should be two to three pages long and in 12-point type. Students must address the following points:

- The academic and professional choices you have made to date and why
- Your career goals, both short-term and long-term (Do you plan to pursue a career in government, the private sector, or higher education?)
- How you envision yourself in a leadership role- expanding human knowledge and/or benefiting society as a whole
- How you match the Self Graduate Fellow profile (see below)

Self Graduate Fellow Profile

“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.”

2. Student Resume

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

3. Letters of Recommendation

Letters of recommendation are not required, however, students are strongly encouraged to include SGF specific letters in their nomination. This provides additional materials for reviewers to refer when determining student fit to profile. It also provides students with the option to include letter writers who may not traditionally be included in graduate admissions, but can offer information on SGF attributes and program fit.



Departments are encouraged to contact students early who apply to the Ph.D. program in order to prepare students for the SGF specific documentation required. 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.

4. Access/Waiver Form

A completed access/waiver form from the student is required. A form submitted to the department via your email address will be accepted in lieu of a signed hard copy. The access/waiver form is the last page of the “Prospective Fellow Information” document on the SGF Website, located in the resource block.

Final Nomination Submission

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.

We thank you for your efforts.

Please direct questions to sgf@ku.edu.