

TOULOUSE GRADUATE SCHOOL

ROBERT B. TOULOUSE FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM ANNOUNCEMENT

Effective Fall 2015

Award Description

The Robert B. Toulouse Fellowship (RBTF) is a highly competitive program created to recruit the very best graduate students to our M.F.A., Ph.D. and D.M.A. programs. Department chairs of the administering programs, into which applicants are accepted, must approve each nomination. The department chair will receive an email with the nomination details and must reply to Rochelle Sykes (rochelle.sykes@unt.edu) with her/his approval or denial.

The fellowship program guarantees multi-year funding packages, requiring departmental participation and commitment. In the first and second year, The Toulouse Graduate School will provide a Level II minimum 12-month stipend commensurate with the student's discipline, tuition plus mandatory fees (excluding specific program or course fees), and health insurance. The Toulouse Graduate School will continue to pay tuition and mandatory fees in years three through five, years for which the department has responsibility for the stipend.

Eligibility

Only newly admitted students to M.F.A., Ph.D., and D.M.A. programs are eligible for nomination. For departments offering a master's and doctoral degree in the same field, only newly admitted doctoral students, without credit towards a doctoral degree, may be nominated.

1. Typically, nominees will have had two prior years of mentored scholarship, creativity or research. This will be shown by previous experiences (e.g. McNair Scholarship, NSF REU experience, NIH or NSF internship, competitive performances, or juried exhibits).
2. Nominees will have a record demonstrating academic excellence and showing exceptional promise for scholarly success. Demonstration might be evidenced by several factors, such as GPA, academic honors or other scholarly designations, scholarly publications or presentations, performances, exhibitions, or participation in preeminent competitions. Ideally, nominees would represent the top 10% of all national candidates for admission to the academic field.
3. Nominees will demonstrate an understanding of the academic rigor associated with advanced terminal degrees.
4. Nominees will demonstrate a focused pursuit for advanced terminal degrees.

Award Terms and Conditions

1. Awarded students may not change their major while on the award.

2. Awarded students must be full-time enrolled, maintain satisfactory academic progress, and earn at least a 3.0 GPA each semester they remain in the graduate program.
3. Awarded students will be expected to engage in sustained mentored scholarship, creativity, or research during year one. In year two, Toulouse Fellows can be assigned as TA/TF/RA's, but preferably they would continue full-time engagement with the scholarship, creative activity, or research begun in year one.

Responsibilities of the Nominating Departments

Departments must provide the following for students in the RBTF Program:

Financial Support – Nominating departments must provide RBTF awardees with a 9 to 12 month assistantship position, whichever is customary in the department, during years three, four, and if necessary five. RBTF awardees must be supported as a .5 FTE by a TA/TF/RA or may be supported by an individual investigator's grant (as long as grant support is at .5 FTE).

Mentoring - Prior to the initial enrollment of the first award year, a faculty mentor must be assigned to each fellow. To fully involve the fellow, mentoring should provide guidance in such critical areas as the fellow's choice of first-year courses, provision of first-year research/scholarship/creative opportunities, understanding of and inclusion in the academic and social life of the program, and participation in other relevant programs and summer institutes

Annual Evaluations - The fellow's assigned mentor must submit an annual written evaluation of the fellow's progress to the Toulouse Graduate School. The evaluation will include a review of the fellow's academic plan, timetable for completion of the degree sought, and other information that will highlight the fellow's progress and conclude with verification that the fellow is achieving satisfactory progress toward the degree. The evaluations must be reviewed with and signed by the RBTF Program student.

Nomination Procedures

Electronic nominations with all attached documents (see items 1 to 6 below) must be submitted to the Toulouse Graduate School for consideration for the RBTF Award. The selection committee will review each nomination. Nomination materials must include:

1. A completed ROBERT B. TOULOUSE FELLOWSHIP (RBTF) [Nomination Form](#).
2. The chair of the department will receive an email with the nomination information and must confirm approval of the nomination.
3. One (1) narrative letter from the program. The narrative must include an assessment of how the nominee ranks among all other applicants admitted to the program in recent years, as well as among all national candidates, plus address the points described under "Eligibility" earlier in this announcement.

4. Nominee's Vita or résumé.
5. A copy of the nominee's statement of purpose for admission to the program.
6. Any other information the department or program would consider relevant in assisting the review committee in selecting awardees, such as the Personal Potential Index (ETS-PPI).
7. Departments may nominate no more than four individuals per academic year; no more than two nominations may be submitted for any round.

Nominations must be submitted via the dedicated web form at <http://tsqs.unt.edu/faculty/toulouse-nomination>.

Questions regarding nomination procedures or the fellowship may be directed to:

Rochelle Sykes (Rochelle.Sykes@unt.edu)
Coordinator, Fellowships and Scholarships
The Toulouse Graduate School

Nomination Deadline

Round 1 Deadline: December 2, 2014

Round 2 Deadline: January 26, 2015

Round 3 Deadline: February 16, 2015

Round 4 Deadline: March 9, 2015 (pending availability of funding)

Notification Process

Notification of unsuccessful nominees will be the responsibility of the nominating department. If unsuccessful nominees were unaware of their nomination, no notification will be necessary. Programs are expected to communicate regularly with individuals awarded a Toulouse Fellowship to expedite a decision and to inform the graduate school as soon as an awardee makes a decision, whether positive or negative. Communicating with awardees will help maintain "personal contact" and increase the probability awardees will accept the offer and enroll at UNT. In accord with the policy of the Council of Graduate Schools, recipients will have until 5:00 PM CDT on April 15, 2015 to accept or decline the RBTF award. However, programs should communicate to awardees the high demand for these prestigious awards and ask awardees to render their decision within two to three weeks of the offer date. The graduate school will provide advice to programs wishing assistance to draft these messages.