



Weill Cornell Medicine

Graduate School of Medical Sciences

A partnership with the Sloan Kettering Institute

May 2023

WEILL CORNELL GRADUATE SCHOOL FELLOWSHIP AWARD POLICY

This document defines the Weill Cornell Graduate School (WCGS) policies for the Fellowship Award.

While WCGS guarantees funding for all students, we strongly encourage our students to apply for external funding. As an incentive, WCGS issues an **additional “Fellowship Award,”** to each student who receives a fellowship, scholarship, or grant from an external funding agency’s competitive award program.

All student recipients of the Fellowship Award are candidates for Doctor of Philosophy or Master’s degrees at Weill Cornell Graduate School, an educational institution that maintains a regular faculty and curriculum and normally has a regularly enrolled body of students in attendance in New York, NY, the place where we carry on our educational activities. The Fellowship Award is not payment for teaching, research, or any service. Non-resident fellows please see “Distribution” section below for applicable tax obligations.

Eligibility

1. Funding source must be external to WCGS

- Only individual competitive fellowships, scholarships, diversity supplements, or research grants from external agencies are eligible for a Fellowship Award.
- Awards internal to WCGS and its Tri-Institution affiliates, including Weill Cornell Medicine, Memorial Sloan Kettering and Rockefeller University, are ineligible. Examples of such ineligible awards include: WCGS Fellowship Award and the MSK Merit Fellowship
 - If a student declines an eligible fellowship (e.g., NSF GRFP, F31, etc.) to accept an ineligible internal grant, they will continue to receive the fellowship award under the terms of the initial eligible award for the period of the internal grant while student is at WCGS.

2. Funding must be granted directly from the funding agency to an individual student

- Institutional training grant appointments to T32, CTSC TL1, and R25 grants are ineligible.

3. Funding source must provide funds that replace costs otherwise paid by the advisor or the university

- Fellowships, scholarships, or grants must provide funds in at least one of the following categories: stipend, tuition, or student fees.
- If fellowships, scholarships, or grants only provide funds for lab supplies and/or travel, they are ineligible.

WCGS reserves the right to determine the eligibility of a fellowship, scholarship, or grant for the Fellowship Award.

Amount

Eligible students can receive **up to \$5,000 per year**. A recipient continues receiving the Fellowship Award each year the fellowship, grant, or scholarship is active. Fellowship Award amount is determined by the dollar amount of the eligible funding source that covers the annual student stipend and the annual total amount of funding.

Stipend awarded by eligible funding source	Amount of Fellowship Award, per year
< 50% of WCGS stipend (\$23,125 in FY23)	10% of the annual total of the stipend, tuition, and student fee support from the external award, up to \$5,000
> 50% of WCGS stipend (\$23,125 in FY23)	\$5,000

A recipient continues receiving the Fellowship Award each year the fellowship, grant, or scholarship is active.

Distribution

WCGS issues the total annual Fellowship Award amount two times each year. The timing of distribution is determined by the start date of the eligible funding source.

Month eligible funding source is activated	Month Fellowship Award check is distributed
November – May	June
June – October	November

The award is typically distributed in the second or third week of the distribution month.

NON-RESIDENT FELLOWS: Fellowship payments to non-residents may be subject to a reduced 14% tax withholding (or a lower treaty rate) if they are temporarily present in the United States with an "F," "J," or "M" visa.

The award comes in the form of direct deposit (i.e., ACH) or physical check. It is not considered compensation; it does not appear on W-2 or 1099-misc forms and is **not reported to the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) as taxable income for domestic students.**

Questions?

Please contact Herminio Quiñones (heq4001@med.cornell.edu) or Dikaury Hernandez-Guner (dih3001@med.cornell.edu) for any inquiries or questions regarding the Fellowship Award.

Examples

Grace receives an F31 that starts in August 2022 and ends in July 2025 (3 year award period). Her F31 provides \$26,352 in stipend support annually, exceeding \$23,125 (50% of FY23 WCGS Stipend). Thus, Grace receives a Fellowship Award amount of \$5,000 in November 2022, November 2023, and November 2024.

Blake was awarded the NSF GRFP Fellowship when they applied as senior undergraduate in Fall 2019. Blake starts at WCGS in Fall 2020. WCGS' policy for NSF GRFP awards is to have students "on reserve" for years 1 and 2, as WCGS has committed to paying student costs for the first 2 years of training. Starting their 3rd year at WCGS (2022), Blake's NSF GRFP is activated. They are "on tenure" from September 2022 to August 2025 (3 year award period). The NSF GRFP provides \$37,000 in stipend support annually, exceeding \$23,125 (50% of FY23 WCGS Stipend). Thus, Blake receives a Fellowship Award amount of \$5,000 in November 2022, November 2023, and November 2024.

Greg receives a fellowship that he activates in November 2022; his two-year award ends in October 2024. This fellowship provides \$20,000 of stipend support, \$5,000 of tuition support, and \$2,000 for fees annually. The stipend support of this award does not exceed \$23,125 (50% of FY23 WCGS Stipend); therefore, his award is 10% of his annual total funding (\$27,000), up to \$5,000. Thus, Greg receives a Fellowship Award amount of \$2,700 in June 2023 and June 2024.

Ayesha receives a fellowship that she activates in January 2023; her one-year award ends in December 2023. Her fellowship provides \$15,000 of stipend support, full tuition support (\$31,806 in FY23), and full health insurance premium costs (\$7,320 in FY23). The stipend support of this award does not exceed \$23,125 (50% of FY23 WCGS Stipend); therefore, her award is 10% of her annual total funding (\$54,126), up to \$5,000. Thus, Ayesha receives a Fellowship Award amount of \$5,000 in June 2023.

FAQ

Why are competitive internal awards ineligible? The goal of the Fellowship Award is to commend the acquisition of external funding.

When will I receive my Fellowship Award? Before the end of the distribution month, typically in the second or third Friday of the month. If you think that you have been excluded in error, please follow up with Dikaury Hernandez-Guner (dih3001@med.cornell.edu).