



College of Letters & Science
UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON

From: Shirin Malekpour, L&S Associate Dean for Teaching and Learning Administration *SM*

To: L&S Department Chairs and Directors

Re: 2021-22 Advanced Opportunity Fellowship Allocations

January 8, 2021

The College of Letters and Science highly values having an academic community which is diverse along a number of dimensions. The Advanced Opportunity Fellowship (AOF) represents an important part of the college's commitment to creating a supportive and welcoming environment for underrepresented minority and first-generation graduate students. We are now soliciting nominations for new AOF students and updating records for continuing students.

Actions Requested by March 5, 2021:

- **Update information for continuing AOF Students:** We will send each department a current spreadsheet of continuing student information. Please update it to include requests for Fall 2021 continuing AOF support and return it to Nova Tebbe (adminpa@ls.wisc.edu). This must be submitted before L&S can review new AOF nominees for your program.
- **Nominate new students:** Complete a [nomination form](#) for AOF student nominees in your department. Please notify Nova Tebbe now if your department will not nominate a student or needs an extension. (adminpa@ls.wisc.edu). L&S will make AOF decisions on a rolling basis by March 12, 2021.

Updating information for continuing AOF Students:

Departments will receive a spreadsheet with information about their department's AOF students. These updates must be submitted before L&S can review your new nominations.

Please note: Continuing students are eligible to receive their second year of AOF funding in 2021-2022 if they will either

- Achieve dissertator status in a in a PhD program by September 8, 2021 or
- will be entering their second year in a professional master's program in Fall 2021.

Nominating New Graduate Students for AOF

Please see the [nomination criteria for AOF](#). More information about the nomination and approval process:

- Departments may submit multiple nominees with preferred ranking.

Office of the Associate Deans, College of Letters & Science

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- AOF nominations must include a faculty mentor name for each nominee. This mentor is not required to be the student's academic advisor, but will be tasked with tracking the student's progress, particularly in their first year on campus, and will be the point of contact at regular intervals during the student's course of graduate study.
- After the department's submission, L&S will review and approve the department's ranked nominee lists. However the department is only authorized to make an offer to **one** student for the Advanced Opportunity Fellowship at a time.
 - If the offer is not accepted, the department may make an offer to the next nominee on their approved list. If you exhaust the approved list and none of the offers were accepted, please let us know right away. We may be able to allocate the unused funds to another department.
 - Departments may use their own funds to match AOF terms to recruit graduate students. This will allow them to make multiple offers.
- Students accepting an AOF offer must participate in the L&S Community of Graduate Research Scholars (L&S C-GRS) program.
- When new students accept your offers, please email Nova Tebbe (adminpa@ls.wisc.edu) with the update and whether or not they wish to have housing priority.

L&S and Department Funding Guarantees:

- **L&S Guarantee of Support:** L&S AOF will guarantee at least one year of incoming support for **one** qualified new graduate student per department.
 - PhD candidates will receive two years of funding
 - Master's candidates will receive one year of L&S AOF funding
- **Department Guarantee of Support:** Department support must guarantee funding for at least:
 - One year for MA/MS students (in addition to the L&S AOF support)
 - Three years for PhD students (in addition to the L&S AOF support)
 - This funding support must be part of **a full graduate student support package**. The number of years guaranteed must be aligned with the department's established practice. The anticipated means of support (TA, PA, RA, etc.) must be indicated on the nomination form.

2021-2022 L&S AOF incoming and continuing fellowship rates

- **\$22,909:** Academic Year (9 month) appointment (Social Sciences and Arts & Humanities)
- **\$28,000:** Annual Year (12 month) appointment (Natural, Physical & Mathematical Sciences and Computer, Data & Information Sciences)

We greatly appreciate your assistance with the L&S AOF/CGRS program!

If you need assistance with the nomination for or spreadsheet, please contact Nova Tebbe (adminpa@ls.wisc.edu).

Questions about allocations and other matters may be directed to Shirin Malekpour (shirin.malekpour@wisc.edu)