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MSU College of Education

Summer Research Development
Fellowships

Question and Answer session

November 10, 2025

Agenda

- Summer Research Development Fellowships
 - For students finishing their first year full-time this April/May
- Fellowships initiated (paid out) in late spring semester
 - If initiated in summer semester, enrollment required
 - See Carrie Oney if you have federal financial aid
- *Summer Research Fellowships*
 - *Decisions coming out after finals (not the focus of today)*
- *Dissertation Completion Fellowships*
 - *Decisions coming out after finals (not the focus of today)*





Summer Research Development Fellowships (SRDF)

- Goals :
 - Develop research skills & approaches
 - Support early-stage doctoral students

Summer Research Development Fellowships

- Eligibility:
 - Full-time students, after first year
 - Part time students, no more than 18 credits completed
 - Not UDF students because their summer is already funded
- Award: \$7000 fellowship
- Due: Friday, January 16, 2026 AT NOON to the College (Qualtrics link in announcement & on webpage)
- Selection process:
 - Departments will be allocated a certain number of awards so that all departments have ~ the same rate of funded applications
 - Department faculty review & rate applications



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Summer Research Development Fellowships

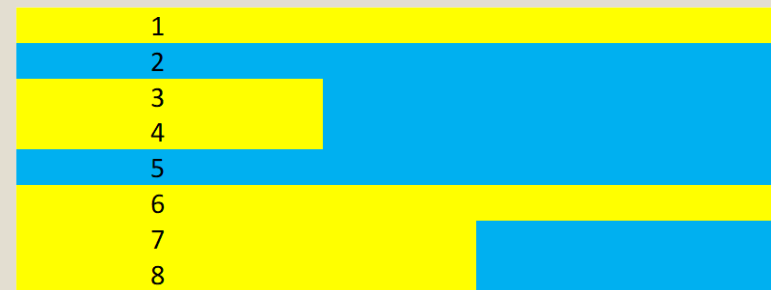
- Time:
 - 2 months full-time work (40 hours/week)
 - Can be divided in various ways
 - Can pro-rate the award (i.e. for 1 month, or 1.5 months)
 - School Psych students' awards will be pro-rated to 1 month
- Other work/classes
 - Recipients can do other work and can take classes
- Whose research?
 - YOURS



Fellowship flexibility

1 month of full-time work (so, a \$3500 award) can look like this:

Yellow = research, blue = other



Changes in how we support your summer research

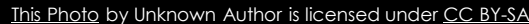
- Faculty mentor program is phasing out (last occurred in Summer 2025)
- For Summer 2026, we are developing a multi-pronged strategy of support that may include:
 - Workshops led by faculty or senior doctoral students
 - Peer mentoring & writing groups led by senior doctoral students
- We are adding a presentation at the end of the summer by each SRDF recipient
 - The audience will be a small group, possibly writing group/ some faculty/ others in your program

Application consists of:

- Name, year in program, mentor name, proposal word count (this material isn't included in the word count)

- Proposed plan for research skill development

- Transcript (MSU grad coursework only)



Summer Research Development Fellowship

Selection criteria are set by the department

Prior evaluators have considered to what degree...

- Proposal is well-written and well-organized
- Author demonstrates an understanding of the field and its direction
- Importance of skills/approaches in the field
- Development of skills/approaches likely to advance student's research significantly
- The scope of the proposal is appropriate
- The applicant's academic record is strong



Summer Research Development Fellowship

Proposal writing tips:

- Read the proposal—what is it asking for?
- Read examples of successful proposals
- 700 words isn't much
- ORA advice:
 - Grant writing is a different *genre*
 - Condense intro & lit review
 - Make sure to include research plan & timeline



Examples



- These are from the all-college competition; listen to your departments
- We've posted past highly-successful proposals online with authors' consent
- How to find this:
 - Google MSU SRDF Education
 - From education.msu.edu, click on "Academics" drop down menu and select "Graduate Student Support"

Disbursing “summer” funding

- Students can only receive fellowship funds during a semester they are enrolled
- Doctoral students are not normally enrolled in summer
- We will plan to initiate (start the payout of) SRDFs late in spring semester
- UNLESS a student has federal financial aid (federal loans)—LET US KNOW IF THIS IS YOUR SITUATION!
- Processing time—plan ahead



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Questions?

