



Miguel Velez Scholarship AY 2017-18

Purpose

The UC Merced Miguel Velez (MV) Scholarship is a prestigious award that provides students with an academic year scholarship. It is intended for Latin American graduate students who exhibit excellence in character and ability, and who demonstrate financial need.

Eligibility Requirements & Standards

- Must be a continuing graduate student and enrolled full-time during the award period
- Must be a citizen/resident from a Latin American country, with preference given to students from South America
- Must demonstrate satisfactory progress toward degree
- Must have a minimum 3.0 GPA in their graduate studies at UC Merced and be enrolled in 12 units during the award period.

Financial Support

- Up to two awards will be made each academic year.
- Recipients will receive a \$10,000 fellowship to be paid in two equal installments of \$5,000 during the Fall 2017 and Spring 2018 semesters.

Application Procedures

- Students must complete the online application by **Friday, January 20, 2017 by 5pm**. The application is available at <https://gradopportunities.ucmerced.edu/grad>. The application includes the following:
 - Curriculum vitae (CV).
 - Unofficial UCM transcript, including current semester.
 - Statement - 1-3 pages describing how the applicant has contributed to diversity in his/her program and on campus, and how the Miguel Velez Scholarship would help to relieve financial hardship. The statement should address the applicant's career goals upon receiving his/her doctoral degree. The statement should be written for a general academic audience, i.e. a faculty reviewer who does not necessarily have expertise in the specific area of study.
 - Declare Estimated Financial Resources - Complete the financial resources section on the application indicating all sources of known or estimated financial support the applicant will receive during the award year. The name, type and amount of support should be included for each known or estimated source. Also include a list of known or estimated financial obligations.
 - Latin American Citizenship/Residency - A photocopy of citizenship documentation or a letter confirming citizenship/residency from a Latin American country.

- Letters of Recommendation - Faculty advisor name and email must be provided under the Letters of Recommendation tab on the online application form. The letter of support should include a description of the advisor relationship and the project that the student will complete during the 9-month period. Advisors will receive an email request for a letter of support for the applicant. Please note that the letter of support will go to the Graduate Division and the Graduate Council (GC), and will not be visible to the applicant. Advisors must submit letters no later than **Wednesday, January 25, 2017 by 5pm.**

Review Procedures

- This fellowship will follow a multiple step review process that considers all applicants. Review criteria will include adherence to the fellowship guidelines, intellectual merits of the proposal, and the academic qualifications of the applicant.
 - First Review - The review will begin with each Graduate Group nominating and ranking their top two applicants. Nominations must include a brief narrative of the process and criteria that the graduate group used to choose nominees. Nominations without this narrative will not be considered. For each nominee, the faculty advisor should be listed, along with 3-4 sentences highlighting the nominee's qualifications for the non-expert reviewer. Each Graduate Group must submit their ranked list and narrative to the Graduate Division by **Friday, February 24, 2017 by 5pm.**
 - Second Review - The Graduate Council will then review the nominations made by each Graduate Group and make recommendations to the Graduate Division.
 - Third Review - Final award decisions will be made by the Graduate Dean.

Deadlines

- Application Closes – January 20, 2017 by 5pm
- Letters of Recommendation – January 25, 2017 by 5pm
- Graduate Group Narrative and Rankings – February 24, 2017 by 5pm

Quick Applicant Checklist

- Curriculum vitae (CV)
- Unofficial UCM transcript
- Statement
- Declare Estimated Financial Resources
- Latin American Citizenship/Residency
- Letters of Recommendation