Rose R. Ruiz Fellowship  
AY 2015-16

Purpose

Grateful to their mother, Rose R. Ruiz, for her strong work ethic, entrepreneurial spirit, and belief in higher education, Fred and Mitzie Ruiz have chosen to honor her by establishing this fellowship in her name. The Rose R. Ruiz Fellowship is designed to inspire, encourage and support graduate students enrolled in a Ph.D. or Masters program realize their dreams. Of special interest are those students who are highly motivated to succeed despite the obstacles they may face, including undocumented status, the first in their family to attend a four-year university, and the challenges that result from difficult financial times.

Eligibility Requirements & Standards

- Ph.D. or Masters student.
- Currently enrolled in 12 units.
- GPA above 3.0.
- Good academic standing.
- Have a financial need and/or hardship.
- First priority will be given to students who face the challenge of undocumented status and have California Dream Act (AB540/130/131) status with UCM. Second priority will be given to students who are the first in their family to attend a four-year university.

Financial Support

- One fellowship award will be made each academic year.
- The $1,000 award is distributed at the end of the Spring semester.

Student Loan Impact

- Per federal guidelines, all fellowship and tuition support is taken into consideration when determining student loan eligibility. If the student will receive federal student loans during the same academic year as this award, please note that this award could, and most likely will, reduce their student loan eligibility.

Use of Funds

- Funds may be used specifically for the pursuit of educational and graduate career goals.

Application Procedures

- Apply by completing an online application at https://gradopportunities.ucmerced.edu/grad.
• Each application must include a one-page personal statement that speaks to how this award will help the student overcome a financial hardship. The statement should also speak to the unique challenges they have faced, or continue to face, in the pursuit of their educational goal.

• Student must complete an application by **April 1, 2016**.

• One to three Letters of Recommendation may be solicited. Names and emails must be provided under the Letters of Recommendation tab on the online application form. Letter writers 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, and will not be visible to the applicant. Letters of recommendation must be submitted by **April 8, 2016 by 5pm**.

• Applications are provided to the Graduate Council (GC) for review, and GC makes recommendations to the Graduate Division. Review criteria will include adherence to the fellowship guidelines and the teaching performance of the applicant. Final award decisions will be made by the Graduate Dean.

• The Graduate Division will notify awardees and corresponding Graduate Group Chairs by the end of the spring term.