



GRAD-EXCEL Peer Mentorship Program Fall 2016

Purpose

The GRAD-EXCEL Program is designed to promote early success in first-year doctoral students through coaching and engagement with a community of advanced doctoral peer mentors. GRAD-EXCEL Peer Mentors provide a great service to their mentees while developing leadership skills that will enhance their own professional development. Each GRAD-EXCEL Mentor will guide 2-3 incoming doctoral students, matched by research discipline.

Eligibility Requirements

1. Continuing doctoral students, with preference given to more advanced students.
2. Currently be enrolled in 12 units in one of the graduate programs.
3. Good academic standing.

Fellowship Objectives

GRAD-EXCEL Mentor Fellows will work with incoming doctoral students in their UC Merced graduate program, the Graduate Division and lead Faculty to enhance mentorship capacity and strengthen their professional development. Fellowship activities will be designed to meet two objectives.

- Objective 1.** Support graduate students in the exploration and advancement of their degree, professional, and career goals and in identifying campus and other resources to achieve those goals.
- Objective 2.** Provide graduate students opportunities to enhance their mentorship and leadership skills.

Support

- Recipients will receive a fellowship of \$500.

Student Loan Impact

Per federal guidelines, all fellowship and tuition support is taken into consideration when determining student loan eligibility. If you have received federal student loans during AY 2016-17, please note that this award could reduce your student loan eligibility, resulting in a loan overpayment. If so, this award would be applied to the overpayment and the remaining balance, if any, would then be disbursed. Your loan debt would then be reduced accordingly. Please check with financial aid before accepting any fellowships if you are concerned about the impact an award may have on your student loan eligibility.

Use of Funds

Funds may be used specifically for costs of attendance (i.e. tuition, fees, books and supplies) or for general support (living, transportation, and personal expenses) necessary to support the pursuit of educational and career goals.

Nomination Procedures

Students cannot apply directly. Graduate Group Chairs will nominate mentors by **Thursday, September 22, 2016**. The nominations may be in list format. Final award decisions will be made by the Graduate Dean.