Eugene Cota-Robles Fellowship
Guidelines for AY 2014-15

Award Profile

The University of California, Merced is committed to the recruitment, admission, and retention of a high quality and diverse graduate student population. The prestigious Eugene Cota-Robles (ECR) Fellowship is named in honor of one of the first Mexican-American professors in the University of California system. This fellowship is intended to help awardees focus on their graduate research and scholarship, and thereby accelerate progress towards achieving their doctoral degrees. The fellowship program is also intended more generally to increase the number and diversity of qualified candidates for faculty positions both within and outside the University of California system.

This award entails a minimum of four years of support. The award provides full fellowship support for the first two years of study in a Ph.D. program, contingent on good academic standing by the Graduate Division. The School will commit two additional years of full academic year support for the recipient, again contingent on good academic standing. The nature of additional support (e.g. TA or GSR funding) generally will not need be specified in advance, but may include additional fellowships, or research and teaching assistantships.

Nomination Standards

• All nominees must be Ph.D. applicants entering their first year of graduate study.

• Eugene Cota-Robles nominees must be United States citizens, permanent residents, or AB540 students.

• All nominees must have a minimum 3.0 GPA in their undergraduate studies.

• Recipients are expected to work closely with a faculty mentor identified by his/her Ph.D. program, who guides the Ph.D. student through the development of a curricular plan. The goal is to acquire skills and knowledge needed to develop a dissertation topic, on the way to completion of a doctoral degree.

• UCOP requires the Graduate Division to track recipient progress towards doctoral degree, and job placement after degree completion. Faculty,
staff and students participating in the ECR fellowship must comply with all requests for information from the Graduate Division.

- The ECR fellowship is intended to enable students to devote full-time to the pursuit of their graduate degree. Fellows are not permitted to hold employment during the tenure of this fellowship.

**First Two Years of Support**

- Awardees will receive $20,106 paid over a 9-month academic year period, each academic year, plus payment of Graduate Fees (Resident Tuition, Student Services Fee and Health Services Fee, excluding Campus Based Fees).

- Total projected fellowship award is $34,309 each year, for the first two years of the fellowship. Level of support for the third and fourth years will be commensurate with a typical full academic year stipend in the applicant’s graduate program.

**Nomination Procedures and Deadlines**

- Each graduate group offering a doctoral degree is eligible to nominate up to two Ph.D. applicants each year. Applicants do not need to apply.

- Graduate Groups should nominate applicants on the basis of academic merit and contribution to the diversity of the graduate program, and graduate population. Diversity may be broadly construed, but nominees are encouraged from cultural, linguistic, geographic and socioeconomic backgrounds, who would otherwise not adequately be represented. In accordance with applicable state laws, applicants to the program may not be given preferential treatment on the basis of race, ethnicity, gender, religion or national origin.

- Graduate Group Chairs should submit their nominations directly to the Graduate Division no later than **5:00 p.m. on February 5, 2014**. If two nominees are submitted, they must be ranked. Nominations should include a brief narrative of the process, criteria, and definition of diversity used by the graduate group to choose nominees. For each nominee, the faculty mentor should be listed, along with 3-4 sentences highlighting the nominee’s qualifications for the non-expert reviewer, plus any information not in the Ph.D. admissions applications that might help the review committee evaluate the nominees and their fellowship qualifications. Narratives must address how experiences, accomplishments, and points of view of the individual may contribute to diversity in the graduate program and population.

- Nominee admissions applications are provided to the Graduate Council (GC) for review, and GC makes recommendations to the Graduate Division.
Final award decisions will be made by the Graduate Dean. Review criteria will include adherence to the fellowship guidelines and the academic qualifications of the nominee.

- The Graduate Division will notify awardees and corresponding Graduate Group Chairs by **March 5, 2014**.