

External Fellowship Event

This event guided graduate students on how to write a competitive grant proposal including advice from advanced graduate students and/or faculty. [Sample External Fellowship Event](#).

Student Feedback

Students indicated their greatest challenges in applying for external fellowships were a lack of guidance from the faculty mentor, knowledge of application deadlines, and an understanding of how to write a competitive application. Students mentioned they do not always know what fellowships to apply for or when to apply. They would like more guidance on how to make their application stand out to reviewers.

“Some of the challenges I face in applying for fellowships are finding out about a fellowship too close to the deadline, not really understanding what a fellowship application is looking for in terms of essay statements, and not knowing when it is a good time to apply for a fellowship.”

“Yes, I would recommend this panel in the future years. We need more advertisement of fellowships and encouragement of students to apply. I think applying to fellowships is a good way to practice writing for other types of applications, like for grants, jobs, etc.”

After having attended this event, a majority of the students indicated their understanding of external fellowship opportunities improved. They appreciated hearing about the application process from other graduate students and receiving information on how to start a proposal. Students requested the graduate program advertise the event more broadly and offer it during Fall Quarter.

Summary

Graduate students confirmed a need for additional advising and mentorship for pursuing fellowship opportunities. Many graduate students do not know how to prepare for applying for fellowships or may be learning about fellowships too late into their graduate program. Current graduate students who have successfully applied and secured fellowships can provide advice to newer graduate students, but faculty should also participate in fellowship advising. Additionally, Graduate Studies fellowship advisors can also be made available to graduate programs to help advise graduate students.