



Greetings from GAPSA Research and Professional Councils!

Below you will find information about the **GAPSA-Provost Fellowship for Interdisciplinary Innovation for the 2022-23 Academic Year.**

### **Purpose of the Fellowship**

The GAPSA-Provost Fellowship for Interdisciplinary Innovation is a program jointly funded by GAPSA and the Office of the Provost for the expressed purpose of fostering an interdisciplinary graduate and professional environment at the University of Pennsylvania. This highly competitive fellowship strives to promote original, student-derived initiatives that integrate knowledge across diverse academic disciplines. The fellowship is also meant to help the project leader(s) develop, pursue and complete their proposed interdisciplinary initiatives.

Academic Year Fellows are to complete their proposed research projects over the course of the fall-winter with an end product due in April of the current academic year. Summer Fellows complete research over the summer with end products due in late September.

### **Terms of the Award**

- Eight awards with funds of up to \$6,000 will be awarded each year. This program is funded in equal portion by GAPSA and the Office of the Provost.
- Funds are awarded per project on the basis of the submitted budget. If a commissioned project has two project leaders, that project will still only receive a maximum of \$6,000.
- Proposed projects may have no more than two project leaders. There is no limit to the number or affiliation of persons collaborating with and/or contributing to the completion of the proposed projects.
- There must be at least one mentoring faculty member who agrees to monitor the progress of the proposed project over the period of the fellowship.
- All awardees are required to participate in a poster session and reception in late April following the period covered by the fellowship.

### **Application Process**

Project leader(s) must submit a complete application containing, among other things, a grant proposal for a summer research project. Grants are reviewed in a 2-stage process by a student selection committee composed of members of GAPSA's Professional Student Council and Research Student Council, then by a selection committee within the Office of the Provost.

Project leaders must be in good academic standing at the time of application and throughout the term covered by the award. Information on the University of Pennsylvania's definition of good academic standing can be found at <https://provost.upenn.edu>.

## Application Components

Applications are submitted through an online form. A complete application includes the following:

- Online application form including the following:
  - Project leader(s) program and contact information
  - Faculty Recommender(s) / Mentor(s) contact information
  - Project Abstract (300 word limit, entered online)
  - Interdisciplinary Innovation (600 word limit, entered online):  
*Description of the innovation involved with the proposed project, with an explicit discussion of how this project utilizes new and original interdisciplinary approaches to meet the stated goals*
  - Project Proposal (4-5 pages / <3000 words, entered online) including the following:
    - Project Significance
    - Background and/or literature review
    - Specific goals or aims of the project
    - Methodology
    - Description of project team/collaborators (may include a discussion of course work, work experiences, skills, access to resources, etc., that will facilitate the completion of the project)
    - Timeline and End Product: description of what the realized goals of the project will look like, including work plan and time to completion (see description of acceptable end projects below under "Requirements of the Selected Fellows")
    - Possible future directions or impact
  - References (entered in separate text box)
  - Project Budget
  - Biographical Sketch or CV for project leaders (uploaded in online form)
    - This may be a *curriculum vitae* or resume, but should include:
      - Educational training (i.e. institution, year, degree, field);
      - List of positions and honors;
      - Published works

- Letter of recommendation from mentoring faculty member
- (optional) Additional letters of recommendation

**Deadline: October 31 at 11:59 pm** for application materials and  
**November 14 at 11:59 pm for recommendation letters.**

Please send any questions to the GAPSA-Provost Fellowship for Interdisciplinary Innovation committee at [gapsa.provost@gapsa.upenn.edu](mailto:gapsa.provost@gapsa.upenn.edu) with "Inquiry" in the subject line.

## **Requirements of the Selected Fellows**

All recipients are expected to complete the following requirements:

### **Monthly Updates**

Fellows are expected to communicate their progress with their mentoring faculty member at the end of each month. Fellows are also required to submit a monthly summary of their research accomplishments and progress. Fellows must indicate the status of each goal/ aim specified in their application. The report must include an update on the work plan from the proposal and details on what activities have been completed toward reaching the end product.

These reports are due on the last day of each month during the period covered by the award:

- Academic Year Recipients: December, January, February and March.
- Summer Fellowship Recipients: May, June, July, and August.

### **Research Report**

Fellows will submit a report at the end of their fellowship documenting (1) their findings or end product, (2) hurdles encountered during their fellowship, and (3) unique skills or knowledge gained through working in an interdisciplinary fashion.

The research report is due by April 15 (AY awards) or September 15 (Summer awards)

### **End Product**

Fellows must produce an end product for their funded project. End products may vary widely depending on the focus and nature of the project. Examples include the following: an academic paper (publishable or presentable), a business plan or strategy for a profit or non-profit enterprise, a policy idea or proposal for local, state, or federal government (referenda, bills, etc.), a piece of artwork, or a website.

End products are due no later than April 30 (AY awards) or September 30 (Summer awards)

**Academic Poster**

Following the completion of the fellowship, fellows are required to create a conference-quality poster that will be displayed at the Graduate Student Center at the end of the spring semester.

Poster dimensions should be 5'-6' by 3' (or vice versa). Posters can be printed through the Weigle Information Commons in the Van Pelt Library. Fellows are responsible for fees associated with poster printing. In April, a reception will be held for all AY and Summer fellows. Posters need to be delivered to the Graduate Student Center at least 7 days prior to the reception. The GAPSA Chair for Research Students will let the fellows know the date of the reception as soon as it is set.

**Poster Session**

Fellows are required to attend the poster session and reception. Fellows will be recognized in formal remarks and will have an opportunity to stand next to their posters to answer individual questions from attendees. Fellows are welcome to invite faculty, colleagues and friends to the reception. All guests and attendees should register through the Graduate Student Center website in advance.

Monthly updates, research reports, and end products should be submitted through the online GAPSA-Provost Reporting Form.

Questions should be directed to the GAPSA Provost account at [gapsa.provost@gapsa.upenn.edu](mailto:gapsa.provost@gapsa.upenn.edu).