



# Funding Your Graduate Education

Graduate Open House  
Fall 2016

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KANSAS

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# Admission to a Graduate Program

- Many funding sources require you to be accepted into a graduate program before you are eligible to apply.
- Deadlines are early – Try to apply August-October to ensure you are accepted in time to apply for external scholarships & fellowships



# Search & Apply

- Priority Deadlines: Many funding opportunities require students to apply (by a posted deadline) in order to receive funding.
- Be sure you meet eligibility guidelines before applying.
- Create master documents to be updated each time you apply (important to proof read).
- Ensure you provide all required documentation



# Enrollment & Graduation Timeline

- For each funding source, there are enrollment requirements and deadlines for completion of the program or funding availability.
- Examples of graduate planning documents or timelines can be found at <https://engr.ku.edu/graduate-progress-degree>.
- Some funding sources can overlap and some are limited/exclusive – be sure you understand your funding requirements.



# Enrollment & Graduation Timeline

## School of Engineering Graduate Program Timelines Master's Program, M.S.

These are general timelines for degree completion, based on regular admission (no pre-requisites required), full-time enrollment and satisfactory progress. We expect our students to make every effort to complete their degree within three years (average for most programs, including part-time programs). Enrollment in the summer is not required for master's students, but may reduce your time to degree. The following timeline summarizes the School of Engineering's expectations for student progress. Please note the academic year runs from fall (late August) through summer (end of July).

### Year One

- Attend New Graduate Student Orientation and any required trainings (New GTA Training)
- Begin coursework to complete core requirements: 6-9 credit hours of graduate level courses – Note you must complete pre-requisite courses before graduate-level courses to be considered in good academic standing (if required)
- Consult with faculty - select an advisor and a master's committee<sup>1</sup> and submit your initial Plan of Study for approval online at: <https://gradplan.engr.ku.edu>
- Participate in academic & professional development activities and secure funding for upcoming semesters by mid-spring
- Utilize summer research funding or internship opportunities (optional) – Enrollment in 1-3 research hours over summer (if employed as GRA)
- Research Students: Start reading relevant literature and developing approaches to your thesis research or project.
- Provide Annual Progress Report to your department or program office (Graduate Activity Report)

### Year Two

- Complete coursework: 6-12 credit hours of graduate level courses (recommended) – Note some courses are only offered in a given semester or year, so plan accordingly
- Complete research or project enrollment and plan for final Master's Exam, Project Presentation or Thesis Defense<sup>3</sup> & discuss PhD options with advisor (recommended)
- Utilize the Engineering Career Center and network with those around you to start making steps towards your career goals – Actively seek out employment opportunities
- Update Plan of Study and submit for final committee approval - Contact your committee members to discuss your progress and/or problems to see if they have any advice
- Conference attendance & journal publication (encouraged) - Participate in academic & professional development activities. Publications make you more marketable and offer leverage over other job applicants
- Complete Graduation Checklist Requirements<sup>4</sup> and exit interview



# Funding Sources & Definitions

- Scholarship
- Fellowship
- Graduate Teaching Assistantship (GTA)
- Graduate Research Assistantship (GRA)
- Internal awards: department, school, university
- External awards: national agencies
- Tuition assistance/Sponsorship: Employer sponsored education



# Where you can find funding

External Funding Sources (outside of KU)



KU Graduate Studies



School of Engineering



Individual programs



# External Funding Sources

- Pivot search tool
- KU jobs website
- Ask your advisors
- Student/National Organizations

## Outside Funding Opportunities Scholarship/Fellowship Opportunities for Current Graduate Students

- Department of Energy Fellowship, deadline varies: check the link provided
- SMART Scholarship, deadline: December 14
- National Science Foundation (NSF) Fellowship, deadline: December 26
- National Institutes of Health (NIH) Grants & Funding, deadline varies: check the link provided
- National Defense Science & Engineering Graduate Fellowship (NDSEG), deadline: December 12
- GEM Fellowship
- American Association of University Women
- American Society of Naval Engineers Scholarship
- Department of Energy Computational Science Graduate Fellowship
- Electrochemical Society Summer Fellowships
- Environmental Protection Agency P3 Awards
- Environmental Public Policy and Conflict Resolution PhD
- Ford Foundation Fellowship Programs
- GEM Fellowship Program
- Geological Society of America Research Grants
- Goldwater Science Scholarships
- Hertz Fellowship
- Hispanic Scholarship Fund
- James B. Pearson Fellowship
- Marshall Scholarships
- NASA Aeronautics Scholarship Program
- NASA Graduate Research Fellowship
- NASA Harriet Jenkins Pre-doctoral Fellowship Project
- NASA Space Technology Research Fellowships
- National Defense Science and Engineering Graduate Fellowship
- National Physical Science Consortium (NPSC) Fellowship
- National Science Foundation (NSF) Fellowships
- Pathways to Science STEM Resources for Graduate Students
- Rhodes Scholarship
- Robert E. Thunen Memorial Scholarship
- Ruth L. Kirschstein National Research Service Awards for Individual Pre-doctoral Fellowships to Promote Diversity in Health-Related Research
- Ruth L. Kirschstein National Research Service Awards for MD/PhD Fellowships
- Science, Mathematics, and Research for Transformation Defense Scholarship for Research Program (SMART)
- Sloan Fellowship
- The Raymond Davis Scholarship
- The Society of Naval Architects and Marine Engineers Graduate Scholarship
- U.S. Department of Energy Global Change Program (GREP)
- Vertical Flight Foundation Scholarship
- Whitaker Foundation Graduate Fellowships in Biomedical Engineering





# University-level Fellowships

- Self Graduate Fellowship
  - \$30,500 in assistance for four years. Covers tuition, fees, and includes professional development.
- University Graduate Fellowship
- GEM Fellowship
- Chancellor's Fellows



# School of Engineering

- The School of Engineering offers scholarships and fellowship funding to first-year graduate students who are nominated by their program.
- These awards are offered for students who apply in either the fall or spring semester for one academic year.



# Tips

- High GRE scores may help secure additional funding
- Contact faculty about GRA positions
- Contact program assistants about GTA positions
- Request to be nominated for fellowships
- Look for funding opportunities in science and math-related departments at KU
- Considering applying for the PhD if you are interested in research. More funding is typically available for PhD students.



Questions?