Competitive Graduate Fellowships in Neuroscience

October 2013

This is a list of fellowships that Neuroscience PhD students are eligible for. This list is not complete, and there are likely to be other fellowships based on scientific discipline, home country for international students, etc. Please let us know if you discover other fellowships, and we will add them to the list.

For additional fellowship opportunities, see the Berkeley Graduate Division website: http://www.grad.berkeley.edu/financial/deadlines.shtml#extramural

--Dan Feldman
Neuroscience PhD Program Director

US Federal Programs

National Science Foundation (NSF) Graduate Research Fellowship Program (GRFP)
This program supports outstanding graduate students in NSF-supported science, technology, engineering, and mathematics disciplines who are pursuing research-based master’s and doctoral degrees at accredited US institutions. US citizens or permanent residents.
See: 2014 NSF GRFP Program Solicitation
Application deadline: November 07, 2013 (Psychology) November 8 (Life Sciences).
Reference letter deadline: November 14, 2013
http://nsf.gov/grfp

National Institutes of Health (NIH) Individual NRSA for PhD Students (F31)
This is an individual fellowship for predoctoral (PhD) students. These are written in close collaboration with your thesis mentor. It is offered through NINDS, NIDCD, NIDA, NIMH, NIA, and NIAAA, and the proposed research must be dissertation research within the scientific missions areas of the institute. You must be within your first 6 years of graduate school; you must have successfully completed your qualifying examination by the time of the award, and you must be performing dissertation research. Maximum 3 year support. US citizens or permanent residents. There is also a version of this award that aims to support under-represented minority students. Program Announcement: PA-11-111.
Application Deadlines: April 8, August 8, and December 8.
http://grants1.nih.gov/training/F_files_nrsa.htm
also http://www.ninds.nih.gov/funding/areas/training_andCareerDevelopment/pre-doctoral-fellowship.htm

National Defense Science and Engineering Graduate (NDSEG) Fellowships
The NDSEG fellowship from the U.S. Department of Defense annually supports graduate
students in various fields including “Cognitive, Neural, and Behavioral Sciences”, and “Biosciences”. 3 years of full support.
Application deadline: **December 20, 2013.**
http://ndseg.asee.org/apply_online

**Department of Energy Computational Science Graduate Fellowship**
Supports PhD research using high-performance computational or mathematical techniques in a variety of fields, including life science. You must be a US citizen or permanent resident, in your 1st year of the PhD program or just applying. Up to 4 years, full support. Deadline: January. Application registration and materials begin in October.
http://www.krellinst.org/csgf/

**National Physical Science Consortium**
Graduate fellowships in science and engineering
Supports PhD research in physics, computer science, engineering, and related fields. This may be appropriate for some Neuroscience students. The fellowship is geared toward women and under-represented minority students. Up to 6 years of support. Includes two summers of paid internship. You can apply at any stage of your graduate career. Deadline: Nov. 30.
http://www.npsc.org/

**Department of Defense**
Science, Mathematics And Research for Transformation (SMART) Scholarship for Service Program
Aims to increase the number of civilian scientists and engineers working at DoD laboratories. Provides full scholarship for PhD training in neuroscience, and provides employment at a DoD laboratory on graduation. (You are obligated to work 1 year in exchange for each year of fellowship support.) US citizens only. Deadline: Dec 16.
http://smart.asee.org/

**Private Foundation Fellowships**

**Howard Hughes Medical Institute (HHMI) International Student Research Fellowship**
This is a fellowship for international students in their second or third year in the U.S. studying for a doctorate in the sciences. This is a 3-year fellowship covering fees, stipend and a research allowance. Tangible evidence of accomplishment (i.e. a publication in a top journal) is required. Students apply to a campus selection committee first (deadline: Nov 1. The committee selects 10 nominees that are forwarded to HHMI, who will select a subset of students to submit a full application.
http://www.hhmi.org/grants/individuals/intl_fellows.html
campus application form: http://www.grad.berkeley.edu/financial/deadlines.shtml (under Extramural Fellowships).

**HHMI Gilliam Fellowship for Advanced Study**
This is only for students who have previously participated in HHMI’s Exceptional Research Opportunities Program (EXROP) before applying to graduate school. Deadline: October.
**Hertz Foundation**
The Hertz Graduate Fellowship is a graduate fellowship for a variety of physical science, engineering, and "quantitative aspects of modern biology". 5-year full fellowship. You can apply either before or after entering a PhD program. US citizen or permanent resident. Deadline: November 1.
http://www.hertzfoundation.org/

**Ford Foundation**
Application competition is administered by the National Research Council (NRC) of the National Academy of Sciences. Many fields including life sciences and psychology. Awards are made on the basis of superior academic achievement, commitment to a career in teaching and research at the college or university level, promise of future achievement as scholars and teachers, and preparation to use diversity as a resource for enriching the education of all students. US citizens and permanent residents.
**The Predoctoral Fellowship** is a 3-year fellowship for students with > 3 years left in their PhD program. Deadline: November 20.
**The Dissertation Fellowship** is a 1-year fellowship for students who have advanced to candidacy in a PhD program. Deadline: November 15.
http://sites.nationalacademies.org/pga/fordfellowships/

**National Physical Science Consortium**
This is a consortium of government agencies, laboratories, and provide companies that provide graduate fellowships in science, mathematics, and engineering, targeted primarily to under-represented minorities and women. Most focus is on physical sciences and engineering but it looks like some aspects of Biology may be considered. U.S. citizens. Fellowships up to 6 years. Deadline: Nov 30.
http://www.npsc.org/index.html

**International Fulbright Science and Technology Program**
This is a graduate fellowship for outstanding international students who want to come to the US for doctoral study in a STEM field, including Neuroscience. You must apply before you reside in the US. Provides the first 3 years of support for your PhD studies.
http://scienceandtech.fulbrightonline.org/

**Autism Speaks**
**Dennis Weatherstone Predoctoral Fellowship Program**
The candidate must be enrolled in Ph.D. or Sc.D. or a combined degree such as an M.D./Ph.D. program and must be able to spend at least 80% of his/her professional time engaged exclusively in Autism Speaks' research activities for the duration of the award and cannot simultaneously hold another named fellowship. No citizenship requirement.
http://www.autismspeaks.org/science/grants-program/open-grants-how-apply

**American Heart Association (Western States Affiliate)**
Predoctoral fellowship, 1-2 year duration. Supports research broadly related to cardiovascular disease and stroke, including basic research and biotechnology. You must have completed initial coursework and be focusing on your thesis research, at time of award initiation. US citizen, permanent resident, or F-1, J-1, or several other visa types. Deadline: July 17.  
http://my.americanheart.org/professional/Research/FundingOpportunities/ForScientists/Winter-2013---Predoctoral-Fellowship_UCM_443316_Article.jsp

Wings For Life Spinal Cord Research Foundation
Individual Grant: This grant is for established investigators, post-docs, PhDs and technicians. The goals of the individual research grant programme are to perform/promote basic and clinical research related to spinal cord injury by encouraging new investigator’s work (including Ph.D. students and technicians) on regeneration and recovery processes, but also to encourage well-established researchers to develop new ideas and/or to transfer their efforts of other areas into spinal cord research. Salary support only.  

PhARMA Foundation Graduate Fellowship
This supports dissertation research in pharmacology/toxicology, informatics, pharmaceutics, clinical pharmacology, and health outcomes. Deadline is generally Sep 1 for pharmacology and informatics. Must be US citizen or permanent resident. 2 years of funding, $20,000 per year. The University selects one candidate for this application. Not yet clear whether Berkeley Neuroscience students are eligible.  
http://www.phrmafoundation.org/

Epilepsy Foundation
Predoctoral Research Training Fellowship. Up to $20,000 for one year. Supports predoctoral students with dissertation research related to epilepsy, thus strengthening their interest in establishing epilepsy research as a career direction. Graduate students must be matriculating in a full-time doctoral (Ph.D.) program with an academic career focus. Areas of interest considered include, but are not limited to neuroscience, physiology, pharmacology, psychology, biochemistry, genetics, nursing, or pharmacy. US citizenship is not required. Deadline in late August each year.  
https://www.epilepsyfoundation.org/research/grant-and-fellowship-opportunities.cfm

Grass Foundation Fellowship Program
This is a specialized fellowship to support a 14-week summer research project at the Marine Biological Laboratory in Woods Hole, Massachusetts. Projects are investigator-designed, independent research projects by scientists early in their career (advanced predoctoral or postdoctoral). Supported approaches include neurophysiology, biophysics, integrative neurobiology, neuroethology, neuroanatomy, neuropharmacology, systems neuroscience, cellular and developmental neurobiology, and computational approaches to neural systems. The Foundation also has a longstanding interest in epilepsy-related research. Deadline: Dec 5.
Boehringer Ingelheim Fonds PhD Fellowships
The Boehringer Ingelheim Fonds awards PhD fellowships to outstanding junior scientists with European nationality (max. age: 27 years) who wish to pursue an ambitious PhD project of approximately 3 years in basic biomedical research in an internationally leading laboratory, including in the U.S. Support duration: 2-3 years. Application deadlines: 1 February, 1 June, 1 October. http://www.bifonds.de/fellowships-grants/phd-fellowships.html

Paul & Daisy Soros Fellowships for New Americans
You must be a “New American” (resident alien, naturalized as a U.S. citizen, or the child of two parents who are both naturalized citizens). Supports up to 2 years of graduate study in any field. This is not science-specific, and focuses on creativity, originality, and leadership. http://www.pdsoros.org/competition/index.cfm

Chateaubriand Fellowship Program
The Chateaubriand Fellowship is a grant offered by the Embassy of France in the United States. Every year, it allows doctorate students enrolled in American universities to conduct research in France for up to 10 months. Deadline: January 31, 2014 http://chateaubriand-fellowship.org/

William Orr Dingwall Foundation, Neurolinguistics Dissertation Fellowship
This fellowship is for doctoral candidates who are specializing in the field of Neurolinguistics. One year of support. You must have completed all requirements for a doctoral degree, with the exception of the dissertation. You must be studying the relationship between language and the structure or functions of the nervous system. All nationalities. One nomination is allowed from the Neuroscience program per year. Application deadline: March 1, 2013. http://dingwallfoundation.org/nl/

American Association of University Women
American Fellowships support women scholars who are completing dissertations. U.S. citizens or permanent residents. Selection is based on scholarly excellence, the specific project design, and active commitment to helping women and girls through service in their communities, professions, or fields of research. Must have completed all course work and qualifying examinations. All fields of study. Scholars engaged in science, technology, engineering, and math fields or researching gender issues are especially encouraged to apply.

International Fellowships are awarded for graduate study in the United States to women who are not U.S. citizens or permanent residents. 1-2 years. Not clear if you can apply after you’ve already matriculated. Selection is for academic achievement and demonstrated commitment to women and girls. http://www.aauw.org/
UNCF/Merck Graduate Science Research Dissertation Fellowship
Stipend and research grant for 1-2 years. For students who have completed the qualifying examination and are within 1-3 years of completing their dissertation. Program includes life science, physical science and engineering. Applicants must be African-American and US citizens or permanent residents.
http://umsi.uncf.org/sif

Porter Physiology Fellowship from the American Physiological Society
This program is open to underrepresented ethnic minority students who are US citizens or permanent residents, and are student members (or have applied to become a student member) of APS. You should be doing physiology-based research. Students may apply in any year of their PhD program. Provides 1-2 years of NIH-level stipend, professional development activities and outreach opportunities. Deadline: Jan 15.
http://www.the-aps.org/mm/Education/Minority-Program/Educational-Projects/Porter-Physiology-Development-Fellowship

University of California Fellowships

Mentored Research Award
This UC fellowship is aimed at 2nd year PhD students who either: 1) experienced substantial impediments to advancing to graduate study; 2) whose research relates to educationally disadvantaged populations; or 3) who have an intention to use their PhD to serve educationally underrepresented populations. US citizens and permanent residents. Provides fees, partial stipend, and mentoring. This requires a nomination by the program, so if you are interested, please contact Dan Feldman. Deadline: March 6.
http://www.grad.berkeley.edu/financial/deadlines.shtml#graddiv

University of California Dissertation-Year Fellowship
This fellowship is aimed at students who have already advanced to candidacy and who have completed two dissertation chapters or the equivalent (this probably means you have published 2 papers, or 1 substantial paper that represents two thesis chapters). You must be on track to finish in a year. US citizens and permanent residents. Targeted at students who 1) experienced substantial impediments to advancing to graduate study; 2) whose research relates to educationally disadvantaged populations; or 3) who have an intention to use their PhD to serve educationally underrepresented populations. Provides stipend, fees, travel allowance. This requires a nomination by the program, so if you are interested, please contact Dan Feldman. Deadline: March 6.
http://www.grad.berkeley.edu/financial/deadlines.shtml#graddiv

Initiative for Maximizing Student Development (IMSD) Graduate Fellows Program
This UC Berkeley program aims to promote excellence and diversity in the sciences. Targeted at students who either come from an under-represented group, or are disabled, first-generation college students, or from a disadvantaged background. Provides stipend,
tuition, research & travel allowance, and professional development activities. US citizens or permanent residents. Deadline: April 30. 
http://imsd.berkeley.edu/graduate.html

**UC MEXUS-CONACYT Doctoral Fellowships for Mexican Students**
For Mexican students doing their doctoral studies at UC. Up to 5 years of funding. Supports most disciplines, including psychology, quantitative biology, statistics, biophysics. Deadline: April 19.
http://ucmexus.ucr.edu/funding/doctoral_fellow.html

**Other small awards**

**Conference Travel Grants**
Awards to allow Ph.D. students at Berkeley to attend professional conferences. You must present a paper or poster on your research at the conference you are attending. Grant amounts depend on location of the conference (up to $400 within California, $600 elsewhere in North America, $1,000 outside of North America). Each student is eligible for two grants per graduate career. **Everyone should apply for this!!** Deadline: 3 weeks before date of travel.
http://www.grad.berkeley.edu/financial/deadlines.shtml#berkeley

**American Federation for Aging Research**
Glenn/AFAR Scholarships for Research in the Biology of Aging
Provides $5000 scholarship for a 3-6 month research project, proposed by the applicant, on topics including neurobiology and neuropathology of aging, metabolic and endocrine changes, stem cells and aging. You must be a PhD student in good standing. Does not appear to have a nationality requirement. Deadline: January 15.
http://www.afar.org/research/funding/glenn-affar-scholarships/

**Company of Biologists, Travelling Fellowships**
Deadlines: April 30, August 31, and December 31

**Society for Neuroscience**
**Graduate Student Travel Awards.** These pay for travel to the SFN conference to present an abstract. You must be the first author on an SFN abstract to be eligible. Apply through the main SFN website. http://www.sfn.org/Awards-and-Funding/Individual-Prizes-and-Fellowships/Travel-Awards/Graduate-Student-Travel-Awards

**Fight for Sight**
**Summer Student Fellowship**
Provides funding for summer research projects for PhD students related to detection, understanding, prevention, treatment and cures of visual disorders; includes research on visual and motor pathways in the brain. You choose your project and mentor. Deadline: Feb 1.
http://www.fightforsight.org/Grants/

**DAAD: German Academic Exchange Service**
Offers several short-term research programs for students in US graduate programs who wish to do 1-10 months of research in Germany. The RISE professional program supports Biology, Chemistry, Physics, Engineering, and other disciplines.
https://www.daad.org/