

2025 Fellowship Informational Session Q&A

Q: If the education allowance is not sufficient to cover a student's full tuition and fringe, can the university use related federal funding to cover the shortfall?

A: Yes, the university could do that if it does not conflict with the progress of the degree that the fellowship is geared toward.

Q: Is there a limit to how long internships can be extended?

A: No, there is no limit, with the stipulation that it does not hinder your degree progress, and that you have notified NE via the Integration Office and provided written support from your advisor.

Q: What is the official start date for this fellowship? Specifically for the stipend?

A: The fellowship starts as soon as your university receives the funds, typically in August for the start of the fall semester.

Q: If I am currently in a master's program and want to continue to a Ph.D. to conduct similar research during my fellowship. Am I limited to the list of universities on the list of approved universities if I want to change schools?

A: No, however, the approval process takes time which means you could lose funds depending on the timeline.

Q: Is the travel allowance \$1,000 yearly or \$1,000 total?

A: It is \$1,000 per year for a total of \$3,000. Funds cannot be used in advance, but fellows can utilize unused funds from previous years.

Q: Does the travel allowance get paid through the school or to us?

A: You must submit a [Travel Request form](#) to [Crystal Sosalla](#). Once your travel is approved and you have incurred travel expenses, you can present the form along with receipts to your university. Generally, this is done through the Office of Sponsored Programs.

Q: If my university is not yet UNLP-approved which leads to a delay in funds being administered, do I forfeit the funds from that period of delay?

A: No. In this case, we can delay the start of your award to next semester, so you do not lose any funds.

Q: Upon completion of the 3rd year of consecutive funding via UNLP, if I am pursuing a Ph.D., is there any sort of agreement between UNLP and the university to match the funding for the duration of my studies? Or will we have to find different aid?

A: The fellowship is a three-year award.

Q: If a student is on a teaching fellowship that requires him/her on a small teaching assistantship with pay, can the TA salary be paid to the student (beyond the fellowship stipend)?

A: Each fellow is required to devote full time to advanced scientific study or work during tenure. However, because it is generally accepted that a reasonable amount of teaching or similar activity constitutes a valuable part of the education and training of many graduate students, a fellow may undertake a minimal amount of such teaching (a few hours a week), without NE approval, at the affiliated institution. It is expected that furtherance of the fellow's educational objectives and the gain of substantive teaching experience, not service to the institution as such, will govern such assignments.

Q: Is it allowable to do the internship in the final summer (third year) of the fellowship under the condition that it is secured by end of the second year?

A: Yes, as long as the internship is approved in advance.

Q: Could I choose to shorten the fellowship to 1 year, and would I still be required to complete the internship?

A: If you are doing a one-year master's program, the internship is waived. If you were planning on completing a higher degree and have changed your mind, please let us know.

Q: Do travel funds apply to this year?

A: Yes, the funds can be applied for travel this year.

Q: Should I contact UNLP or the school if there's delays or issues with the stipend disbursement?

A: Contact your school as they are handling and administering those funds. Please reach out to us if you need help identifying any points of contact at your university/college.

Q: When we wish to use our travel allowance do we need to contact the school or you?

A: You must submit a [Travel Request form](#) to [Crystal Sosalla](#). Once your travel is approved and you have incurred travel expenses, you can present the form along with receipts to your university. Generally, this is done through the Office of Sponsored Programs or Research at your university/college.

Q: If I wish to take a US particle accelerator school (USPAS) class in the winter and they have a tuition, can I use the travel funds to reimburse it because it technically isn't provided by my university?

A: This type of request is done on a case-by-case basis and would likely be supported with unused cost of education funds rather than unused travel funds, if approved. Please contact [Crystal Sosalla](#) when you have specific details and she will start the approval process.