



2021 SUMMER RESEARCH DEVELOPMENT FELLOWSHIPS

College of Education Summer Research Development Fellowships are funded by the Graduate School at Michigan State University and are intended to support very early stage PhD students in developing their research skills and approaches.

Eligibility:

- Full-time, residential doctoral students are eligible if they have finished one (and only one) year of doctoral study at MSU by May 2021.
- Part-time and/or non-residential doctoral students are eligible if they have completed no more than 18 credits by May 2021.
- Students who are receiving a University Distinguished Fellowship (UDF) or University Enrichment Fellowships (UEF) are not eligible for the SRDF because they are already funded during this summer by their university fellowship.

Terms of award:

- \$6000 fellowship, funded by the Graduate School and disbursed by the College of Education during Spring or Summer semester.
- Under federal law, a student must be enrolled in at least one credit during the semester they take the fellowship.¹
- The SRDF supports two months of full-time work during the three-month summer.
- Students may work and take classes while receiving an SRDF (previously, this was prohibited).
- Students who are not able to commit to the equivalent of two months of full-time work due to other commitments (i.e. other full- or part-time work) should contact the Office of Academic and Student Affairs when accepting the fellowship so that it can be pro-rated.
- Students are expected to submit a short report by the end of summer, Friday August 13, 2021, summarizing their accomplishments.
- College of Education faculty mentors who oversee a student's project receive \$500 in professional development funds. Co-mentors may share this allocation. Mentors no longer need to indicate their willingness to participate.

Submission, selection, and key dates:

- Students submit an application to the College [via this link](#) by January 25, 2021, at noon.
- A team of five members (one faculty member appointed by each department and the Associate Dean for Academic and Student Affairs) reads and rates all applications. Awards are made based on the average ratings and resulting rankings.

¹ If a student plans to take the fellowship during Summer 2021, the student must be enrolled during summer semester and may be required to pay tuition. A student may take the fellowship at the end of Spring 2021 for use during summer, but that will have implications for students who receive financial aid.

Type of work to be funded:

- The SRDF may be used to develop an appropriate research question, identify or customize methods to pursue a good question, prepare an effective literature review, perhaps collect initial data, or a combination of these.
- The SRDF is intended to support a student's original work or, possibly, a piece of a larger project assigned exclusively to the student. The SRDF does not support graduate research assistantship assignments.
- The SRDF is not designed to support the completion of projects and publications, as would be the case with the regular Summer Research Fellowships. Under the eligibility requirements for the two awards, no student could be eligible for both awards: if a student is far enough along to have competed for the SRF (in the fall), that student is by definition too far along to compete for the SRDF.

Application requirements:

- (1) Research proposal. Maximum 700 words (roughly 2-3 pages double spaced). The word count excludes frontmatter, appendices, and reference lists. The proposal should:
 - Include at the beginning "Frontmatter": (a) student name, (b) year in the program, (c) proposed mentor's name, and (d) word count.
 - Not use a separate title page;
 - Summarize the research skills to be developed and how they will be strengthened;
 - Discuss prior research skill development by the applicant;
 - Bear the file name: SRDF21Prop[Applicant'sLastNameFirstInitial].pdf.²
- (2) MSU transcript for all PhD program coursework.³ Save the transcript as a PDF and attach it to the research proposal after the last page before uploading the proposal.

Selection criteria:

- Although there is not a formula for rating proposals, evaluators consider criteria including:
 - Is the proposal well-written and well-organized?
 - Does the author demonstrate an understanding of the field and its direction?
 - How important are these skills/approaches in the field?
 - Is the development of these skills/approaches likely to advance the student's research significantly?
 - Is the scope of the proposal appropriate (2 months of full-time work)?
 - How strong is the student's academic record?

² For example: SRDF21PropBowmanK.pdf.

³ How to secure and insert your MSU transcript (submit only your PhD coursework): 1) go to stuinfo.msu.edu; 2) Select Transcripts; 3) Select Official Transcript Request; 4) Click the link next to "Validate and Order using MSUNet ID and password"; 5) Under Transcript Order # 1, Select "Yes" to have your transcript sent to you; 6) Select "Electronic (PDF)"; 7) Enter your phone number and complete mailing address; 8) Go to the bottom and click "Next"; 9) You will receive a link to the PDF version through an email to you, generally within one day; 10) Save the PDF and attach it to your SRF proposal PDF after the last page.