

Max Steckler Fellowship

Thanks to a generous bequest from the estate of Max Steckler, each year the Department awards one or two Max Steckler Fellowships to graduate students who have demonstrated excellence in their research and/or service activities. The size of these Fellowships is somewhat variable based on annual disbursements from the Steckler endowment but is often in the \$8000 to \$9000 range. The Fellowships are used to cover part of the recipients' stipends, not to augment them.

Eligibility

Eligible students must be undergoing graduate training towards a Ph.D. in the Department of Molecular & Cellular Biochemistry and be a minimum of one semester away from defending. Eligible students cannot be recipients of another Fellowship that would run concurrently with the Steckler Fellowship.

Nominations

The Director of Graduate Studies (DGS) will put out a call for nominations on or around April 1 of each year. Students may self-nominate for the award or can be nominated by a faculty member of the Department. A nomination packet should consist of a cover letter from the student detailing their accomplishments (maximum two pages), the student's C.V., and a letter of reference (maximum two pages) from their faculty mentor. These should be submitted to the DGS on or before the deadline stated in the call for nominations. Late nominations will not be accepted.

Award Decision

The DGS will assemble a committee of at least three faculty to rank the nominations and decide upon the awardee. Nominees will be judged based on research accomplishments, as well as related aspects of graduate training such as scientific communication, professionalism, Departmental citizenship, outreach etc. The Steckler Fellowships will be presented at either the Departmental retreat or a Departmental awards event each year. The Fellowship funds will be used to partially cover the awardees' stipends in the Fall following the Retreat.