The 2023 Hertz Fellowship application is now open.

Eligibility and Benefits

The Hertz Fellowship provides financial and lifelong professional support for the nation’s most promising graduate students in science and technology.

The fellowship includes up to five years of funding, valued at up to $250,000, and the freedom to pursue innovative projects wherever they may lead. In addition, fellows take part in ongoing mentoring, symposia, and workshops with our vibrant community of more than 1200 fellows, a set of peers who span disciplines, generations, and geography.

Before applying, we encourage you to explore the details of the fellowship to make sure it's the right fit for you. You can email us with any questions at fellowshipinfo@hertzfoundation.org, or visit our frequently asked questions.

- Eligibility
- Compensation Package
- Moral Commitment
- Fields of Study
- Participating Schools

Eligibility

We know the nation’s most promising talent can come in many packages, from different disciplines, backgrounds, and points of view.
All eligible applicants must:

- be college seniors, first-year graduate students, or in a gap year preparing to apply to graduate school;
- intend to pursue a PhD in the applied physical and biological sciences, mathematics, or engineering;
- intend to direct their studies toward understanding and solving major, near-term problems facing society; and
- be citizens or permanent residents of the United States.

We do not award fellowships to applicants pursuing professional degrees other than a PhD, such as an MD, JD, MBA, DPH, or DVM. However, we will support the PhD portion of an MD/PhD program.

Anti-Discrimination Notice: We do not discriminate against any individual on the basis of sex, race, creed, religion, color, gender, gender identity, gender expression, national origin, ancestry, physical or mental disability, medical condition, genetic information, marital status, registered domestic partner status, age, sexual orientation, military and veteran status, or any other basis protected by law.

Compensation

The Hertz Fellowship compensation package includes a cost-of-education allowance and a personal stipend valued at up to $250,000.

Fellows have two options for receiving their fellowship compensation.

Option 1: Funding from the Hertz Foundation Only

- $34,000/nine-month personal stipend
- Full tuition equivalent
- Renewable annually for up to five years
- $5,000/year stipend for fellows with dependent children

Option 2: Coordination with Another Awarding Institution

If you receive a fellowship, scholarship, or grant offer from another institution, we'll coordinate with that institution to make sure you can take advantage of each offer and receive...
- Hertz Foundation period: Full tuition equivalent and $40,000/nine-month personal stipend
- NSF period: $8,000/year supplemental stipend from Hertz Foundation
- Renewable annually for up to five years
- $5,000/year stipend for fellows with dependent children

Moral Commitment

The Hertz Foundation strongly believes that science and technology should make a positive impact on our nation.

As a public charity, we are committed to empowering young minds who will put their talents to work when it matters most. That’s why before awarding a fellowship, we require that applicants make a nonbinding moral commitment to make their skills available to the United States in times of national emergency.

Importantly, this is not a contractual obligation. We don’t tell our fellows that the nation requires their action, and we have no definition for what constitutes a national emergency.

Throughout history, science and technology have played essential roles in overcoming major challenges facing society, from creating vaccines that fight global epidemics to developing technology that predicts natural disasters. We leave it up to each fellow to determine in their eyes whether the nation faces a truly serious challenge and if they are positioned to use their knowledge and abilities to address it.

Fields of Study

The Hertz Foundation awards fellowships to graduate students pursuing a PhD in the applied physical and biological sciences, mathematics, or engineering.

We do not award fellowships based on an applicant’s particular field of study; however, we do require that applicants direct their work toward understanding and solving major, near-term problems facing society. For each applicant, that could mean something different—inventing a new technology, developing a business, or applying their interests in innovative ways.