

Arthur A. Schomburg Fellowship Program University at Buffalo / SUNY

Award Priorities and Associated Funding Arrangements

To increase the overall effectiveness of UB's Schomburg Fellowship program, the following award priorities and enhanced funding arrangements will be in effect beginning with awards made to new Schomburg Fellows for the 2008-09 funding cycle.

1. Institutional awards to new Schomburg Fellows initially appointed Fall 2008 or thereafter will be made in the following priority order until available Schomburg Fellowship funds are exhausted:

Priority 1: New Schomburg Fellowship awardees who will be concurrently supported for the entire academic year by a full TA/GA/RA position at the department/program's normal stipend rate and a full tuition scholarship, both of which are funded by the department/program. In such cases, the nominating unit must identify the amount of annual stipend "supplement" that is being requested from the Schomburg Fellowship program. Such annual stipend supplements may not exceed \$7,000 for master's students and \$10,000 for all others.

Priority 2: New Schomburg Fellowship awardees who will be concurrently supported for the entire academic year by their department/program with a "half" TA/GA/RA position (at one-half the unit's normal stipend rate), as well as a "half" tuition scholarship provided by the department/program each semester. In such cases, the Schomburg Fellowship program will provide an annual stipend supplement equal to the amount of stipend provided annually by the department, plus up to an additional \$3,500 annually in stipend support for master's students or up to \$5,000 annually for doctoral students, the exact level in each student's case to be requested through the nomination form. In addition, the Schomburg Fellowship program will provide Fellows in this priority category with a partial tuition scholarship each semester equal to one-half of the standard "graduate" tuition rate up to the prevailing institutional limits for such support.

Priority 3: New Schomburg Fellowship awardees who will not be receiving concurrent stipend or tuition scholarship support from their department/program (i.e., those whose stipend and tuition scholarship support will be drawn exclusively from the Schomburg Fellowship program). In such cases, the nominating department/program must commit and provide funds from its own sources to cover only the cost of the Fellow's health

care benefits (approximately \$1,300 annually). Stipend support from the Schomburg Fellowship program will be equal to the annual academic year stipend level of beginning Teaching Assistants (TA's) in the nominating department/program up to \$12,000 annually for master's students and \$15,000 annually for doctoral students. Tuition scholarship support from the Schomburg Fellowship program will be limited to the regular "graduate" tuition rate up to the prevailing institutional limits for such support. Note that Schomburg awardees who receive assistantship and/or tuition scholarship support from outside their academic nominating unit will be subject to the Schomburg Fellowship funding limits described under Priority 1 or 2.

2. Tuition scholarship support from Schomburg Fellowship program funds will be limited to the standard "graduate" tuition rate. All nominations of new Schomburg Fellows from instructional programs with tuition rates higher than the standard graduate tuition rate must be accompanied by a written pledge from that program to provide the student, for each semester of the student's Schomburg Fellowship, a tuition scholarship supplement funded from other sources and equal to the difference between the then prevailing "standard" graduate tuition rate and the tuition rate for the professional program in question.

Among the various benefits resulting from these Schomburg Fellowship program enhancements are the following:

- a. More attractive/competitive recruitment and retention packages (i.e., health care benefits and higher stipends).
- b. Heightened engagement of Schomburg Fellows in the teaching and/or research activities of the academic program, thereby yielding greater personal and professional development opportunities for such Fellows.
- c. Provision of more extensive and effective mentoring of Schomburg Fellows by academic program faculty and staff.
- d. Institutional ability to support more Fellows overall.

Please share this information with those individuals in your College/School who are responsible for nominating students for Schomburg Fellowships. Questions or requests for additional information regarding the policies and procedures for the Schomburg Fellowship program should be directed to the Graduate School.