

**General Overview of the  
Arthur A. Schomburg Fellowship Program  
University at Buffalo / State University of New York  
January 2008**

Through its Arthur A. Schomburg Fellowship program, the University at Buffalo/State University of New York offers graduate fellowships to students who have been admitted to graduate or professional study, who will pursue such study and be enrolled on a full-time basis, and who will contribute to the diversity of the student body in the graduate or professional program in which they will be enrolled.

Students may not apply directly to the Graduate School for support under the Schomburg Fellowship program. Instead, eligible students must be formally nominated by their academic program or unit.

Diversity Criteria: The Schomburg Fellowship program is designed to assist UB in the recruitment, enrollment and retention of students in doctoral and master's level programs who can demonstrate that they would contribute to the diversity of the student body, especially those who can demonstrate that they have overcome a disadvantage or other impediment to success in higher education. Such categorical circumstances may include academic, vocational, social, physical or economic impediments or disadvantaged status that students, as evidenced by their performance as undergraduates, have been able to overcome, or other characteristics that constitute categorical underrepresentation in their particular graduate program such as gender or racial/ethnic status. Note that in awarding such fellowships, the Schomburg Fellowship program gives full consideration to students who are of a race or ethnicity that is underrepresented in graduate and professional programs at UB, but does not make awards solely on that basis.

Eligibility: To be eligible for consideration, nominees for support under the Schomburg Fellowship program must meet all of the following criteria:

1. U.S. citizen or Permanent Resident.
2. Accepted as a first-time, full-time student in a UB graduate degree program or a professional degree program at the graduate level for the fall semester in which the fellowship will be initially awarded. Students who begin a graduate level program in the spring semester are ineligible.
3. Cumulative undergraduate GPA of at least 3.0.
4. Able to satisfy the diversity criteria for the program as described above.

Nomination Procedures: To receive consideration for Schomburg Fellowship support, students who meet the eligibility criteria must be formally nominated by their graduate or professional program on forms provided for that purpose by the Graduate School. No forms from previous nomination cycles will be accepted.

In addition to the fully completed and signed Schomburg Fellowship nomination form, nominating units must include in the nomination package:

1. Nomination letter from the Department Chair or Dean.
2. Copies of the candidate's letters of recommendation.
3. A complete copy of the nominee's undergraduate (and graduate, if applicable) transcripts.
4. Certification of any standardized test scores (e.g., GRE) received by the admitting program.
5. A written statement from the nominee (maximum of 500 words) describing how he/she will contribute to the diversity of the student body in their graduate or professional degree program, including by having overcome a disadvantage or other impediment to success in higher education.
6. Any appropriate supplemental documentation supporting the nominee's claims of disadvantaged status and/or impediments to success in higher education that were overcome (e.g., copies of FAFSA applications documenting economic disadvantaged status, etc.).
7. Any additional materials from the candidate's application for admission that would provide further insight into the nominee's background and suitability for the Fellowship award (e.g., personal statement, career objectives, research experience, publications, honors, professional work experience, writing samples, etc.).

Complete and signed nomination packages must be received in the Graduate School by the announced deadlines dates for the award cycle in question and with the number of copies specified by the Graduate School. Each nomination will be evaluated on its own merits based on the strength of the case as put forward by the nominating unit, the supporting materials provided by the nominee, and the program "priority category" under which the proposed shared funding arrangement falls (see nomination form for a description of the various "priority categories"). The Schomburg Fellowship Advisory Committee will review all nominations and will offer recommendations concerning each to the Dean of the Graduate School who will render final decision in all cases.

Additional Schomburg Fellowship Conditions:

1. All Schomburg Fellowship recipients
  - a. must apply annually for the Tuition Assistance Program (TAP).
  - b. must maintain full-time enrollment (12 credit hours per semester) or have obtained "Certified Full-Time" student status from their academic program office and the UB Graduate School.
  - c. must maintain a graduate GPA of 3.0 or better and timely progress toward the degree.

- d. if out-of-state, must apply for New York State residency upon completion of their first semester of study (else they may be held responsible for paying the difference between the out-of-state and the in-state tuition rates for their program).
  - e. must complete an academic practicum.
2. Schomburg Fellowships are granted only for the degree that the student is pursuing at the time of nomination, as stated in the fellowship award letter. Schomburg Fellowships do not cover pursuit of the second degree component of post-baccalaureate dual degree programs.
  3. If a Fellowship holder plans to change degree programs, he or she should contact the Graduate School at 645-2939 to discuss potential ramifications on fellowship funding. Transfer of Schomburg Fellowship funding to a different degree program is not guaranteed and should not be presumed.
  4. Tuition scholarships are not awarded for multiple degrees at the same level (e.g., two master's degrees) and are subject to the institution's guidelines and policies for the receipt of tuition scholarships. Those policies may be examined at:  
[http://www.grad.buffalo.edu/policies/tuition\\_scholarship\\_policy.pdf](http://www.grad.buffalo.edu/policies/tuition_scholarship_policy.pdf)

#### Funding Limits:

1. Funding package components and their levels for individual Schomburg Fellows are proposed by academic departments/programs subject to established institutional guidelines and priorities for the Schomburg Fellowship program and the approval of the Vice Provost for Graduate Education/Dean of the Graduate School. In coordination with the student's department, all Schomburg Fellows receive a tuition scholarship subject to limits defined in the institution's tuition scholarship policies. In addition, all Schomburg Fellows are eligible for subsidized health care benefits. Master's level, Au.D., Ed.D., and Ph.D. level Schomburg Fellows also receive a stipend (the level of which is determined at the time of award offer).
2. Each Schomburg Fellowship funding package is limited to the following maximum semesters of support:
  - o Master's level students – 4 semesters
  - o Pharm.D, J.D., and D.P.T. students – 6 semesters
  - o M.D. and D.D.S. students – 8 semesters
  - o Ph.D. students with **no** previous Schomburg Fellowship program support at the Master's level – 8 semesters
  - o Ph.D. students with previous support at the Master's level - the remainder of 8 semesters of support. For example, a Ph.D. student who previously received 3 semesters of Schomburg Fellowship support while enrolled in a UB master's degree program would receive 5 more semesters of Schomburg Fellowship support as a doctoral student.

2. Tuition scholarship funding is limited to the minimum number of credit hours required to complete the degree program in question, as stated in the fellowship award letter. If a student needs to exceed that number of credit hours in order to obtain the degree, he or she should contact the Graduate School at 645-2939 to discuss potential impact on Schomburg Fellowship funding.
3. All funding is subject to applicable institutional guidelines and regulations.
4. Schomburg Fellowship support during the summer is extremely limited and is subject to institutional guidelines for such support. Those guidelines are posted on the Graduate School website.

The Graduate School  
January 8, 2008