

Information for University of Kansas Self Graduate Fellowship (SGF) Nominees, Spring 2012

About the Self Graduate Fellowship

The Madison and Lila Self Graduate Fellowship offers a special opportunity for students seeking a Ph.D. at the University of Kansas. The SGF selects students with the attributes we believe will put them on track to make a difference in the world and in their professions. More specifically, we're looking for high potential individuals who have a vision, career goals, leadership potential, motivation, and a strong work ethic. Self Fellows also demonstrate initiative and passion for achievement and lifelong learning.

Outstanding Ph.D. applicants and first-year Ph.D. students in eligible disciplines may be nominated by their departments for a Self Graduate Fellowship.

Nomination Process

KU academic departments identify and nominate applicants for doctoral study and first-year doctoral students who are potential Self Fellows. The nomination file submitted by the department will include a letter of nomination from the department, your graduate school application, academic letters of recommendation, transcripts of all college or university work, GRE scores if required, your application statement to the department, your resume, and other supporting material from your file. The department may contact you to get additional letters of recommendation specifically for the Self Graduate Fellowship. The department will also ask you to submit your SGF personal statement. This is one of the most important documents in the nomination process. We rely on this file to tell us *how you match the attributes of a Self Fellow*.

Instructions

As a nominee, you will need to submit to your nominating department three items:

1. Self Graduate Fellowship Personal Statement
2. Access/Waiver form
3. Current Resume

1. Self Graduate Fellowship Personal Statement

Your personal statement is critical to your success in the Self Graduate Fellowship selection process. This is your opportunity to tell us how you fit the profile of a Self Fellow. Your statement should be authentic and should tell your story in your own words. Remember that through this document you will try to convince the evaluation committee that you deserve an interview. Edit the statement carefully and don't be afraid to rewrite it. Your personal statement must address the following points:

- the academic and professional choices you have made to date and why
- your career goals, both short-term and long-term (Do you plan to pursue a career in government, the private sector, or higher education?)
- how you envision yourself in a leadership role—expanding human knowledge and/or benefiting society as a whole
- how you match the Self Fellow profile

Self Fellow Profile

The ideal candidate possesses unusual motivation, passion, and potential to make significant contributions to his/her profession and to society. In addition to a strong academic record, he or she has leadership, communication, and decision-making skills. He or she displays personal attributes including self-awareness, emotional maturity, initiative, tenacity, energy, vision, risk-taking, and interpersonal effectiveness. The ideal candidate is interested in personal development and lifelong learning and is committed to participation in the Fellow Development Program.

Before you begin, be sure to review the SGF web page <http://www.ku.edu/~selfpro>. Your statement should be two to three pages long and in 12-point type.

2. Access/Waiver Form

We must receive a completed access/waiver form from you. A form submitted from your email address will be accepted in lieu of a signed form. The form is the last page of this document.

3. Current Resume

All nominees for 2012 should submit a resume to the nominating department. The resume should highlight experiences and significant achievements from work, school, volunteer projects, and extracurricular activities. Awards and honors, and research experiences should be listed. Memberships and offices held should be noted.

Deadline

Your SGF personal statement and access/waiver form must be submitted to your nominating department prior to the nomination deadline. The deadline for departments to nominate students is February 2, 2012. Please contact your department for additional details.

The Selection Process

The Self Graduate Fellowship Board of Trustees and an evaluation committee work to fulfill the mission and goals of the fellowship as they select students to interview for the fellowship. Their responsibility is to select individuals whose academic preparation, vision, and commitment to career goals match the Self Fellow Profile. A brief telephone interview will also be used in the initial review.

Self Graduate Fellowship Interview

Candidates selected for on-campus interviews will be notified via email by February 17, 2012.

These individuals will be invited to campus for interviews, which will be held February 29 – March 2, 2012. Please block this time since no alternate dates will be scheduled. During the visit, interviewees will have the opportunity to interact with faculty, other graduate students and Self Fellows, and to explore the KU campus and the city of Lawrence.

Those invited to interview will be asked to provide proof of U.S. citizenship prior to the interview. Acceptable documents are a copy of a birth certificate, a passport, or proof of naturalization.

The Self Graduate Fellowship interview will take approximately one hour. During this time, students will have the opportunity to describe their accomplishments and their goals to the team of three interviewers. The setting is a small conference room, and no audio visual equipment or handouts are necessary. Business attire is appropriate.

You will be reimbursed for expenses incurred for the interview trip to Lawrence.

The Self Graduate Fellowship Educational Award

If you receive an invitation to come to Lawrence for an interview, please note that you are already a winner. Students not offered the full fellowship will receive a \$3,000 Honorable Mention Award. The award will supplement graduate study at KU in the 2012-2013 academic year.

Self Graduate Fellowship Offers

After the interviews are completed, the SGF Board of Trustees makes the final selections. Offers are extended in cooperation with academic departments by mid-March.

The deadline for acceptance of offers is April 15, 2012. Students are encouraged to communicate their decisions as soon as possible since their decision may impact other individuals.

If you have questions, please contact Sharon Graham, 785-864-7249, or email sgraham@ku.edu



**ACCESS/WAIVER FORM
FOR STUDENT FILES AND RECOMMENDATION LETTERS**

Letters of Recommendation, Fellowship Selection Documents

**Madison and Lila Self Graduate Fellowship
at The University of Kansas**

Public Law 93-380 permits students or alumni to have access to their files or to waive their right to see recommendations written concerning them after January 1, 1975. Please indicate your preference by signing one of the following:

_____ I understand that Public Law 93-380 provides for access to my file, and **I wish to retain my right to access all letters of recommendation and evaluation documents in conjunction with the nomination for a Self Graduate Fellowship.**

Date _____

Signature _____

OR:

In accordance with 438 (a) (1) (B) (iii) of Public Law 93-380, **I hereby freely waive my right to access all letters of recommendation and evaluation documents in conjunction with the nomination for a Self Graduate Fellowship.**

_____ I understand that these documents may not be used for any purpose other than evaluation of my qualifications for the fellowship, and that by signing this waiver, I retain the right to learn the names of any and all persons submitting such letters and documents.

Date _____

Signature _____