

UFII-Fellowship Program: Graduate Students 2021

Timeline

Application Deadline:	January 25, 2021
Anticipated Notice of Awards:	April 2021
Earliest Start Date:	May 1 st , 2021

Purpose and Areas of Interest

In an effort to further its mission to develop and nurture research and education studies in Data and Computational science, as well as in Artificial Intelligence at the University of Florida, the Informatics Institute is offering 2 year fellowship awards to support Graduate Students in enhancing their education in research in a UFII thrust area at the University of Florida. The award is intended to be a supplement of support for Graduate Students who are currently supported and or employed by their College, Department, or mentoring PI, and who are on track for their PhD.

All Graduate Students supported by the program will be provided an office for 1 year at UFII in order to foster the secondary goal of the program, promoting interdisciplinary communication and collaboration to help solve challenging problems. After the year the Graduate Student will be moved to and supported by their sponsoring Department.

Total Available Funding and Award Amounts

UFII hopes to make a total of 5-6 awards with each award to exceed \$45,000 depending on the quality of submission and budget availability. **2 nominations per doctoral program are allowed.**

Nomination Requirements

Students must be nominated by their doctoral program for this fellowship. Students should contact their program regarding their selection and nomination process. Each doctoral program may submit a list of up to three nominees online. Any Department, interdisciplinary program or College/School which has an approved doctoral program in the Graduate School is invited to participate. **A complete nomination packet for the UFII Graduate Fellowship consists of the following in one single PDF file with a maximum file size of 2 MB. One packet must be completed per student nominee and submitted separately within the portal.**

- **A Statement by the Department Chair or Graduate Coordinator** of Student Achievement and Potential, indicating why these particular students have been nominated and the criteria used for the nomination.
- **Students' personal statement describing their dissertation work** and how it is aligned with the interdisciplinary goals of the Informatics Institute. The statement should address the importance of the student's work in Informatics and Data Science in the first two or three sentences. The statement should include the theoretical framework of the work, its specific aims, methodologies (how the student will conduct the research), originality, and the significance and interdisciplinary contributions of the project, including its contributions to the field of Informatics and Data Science. Fellowship committees place strong emphasis on this statement. The statement should be written with an interdisciplinary faculty review panel in mind; i.e., reviewers will NOT necessarily be familiar with the technical vocabulary of a specific field. (1,000 words)
- **Copy of the dissertation title and dissertation abstract** (plain text only). (150 words)
- **Three letters of recommendation for each nominee, one of which must come from the faculty member who will supervise the dissertation**, commenting on the student's overall performance, potential and expected time to degree. NOTE: Letters of recommendation are reviewed very carefully and carry great weight with the selection committee. Several paragraphs are more helpful to the nominee than are one or two sentences.
- **Current curriculum vitae (c.v.) of the graduate student nominee(s)**
- **A proposed timetable detailing which two semesters are to be supported by the UFII Fellowship and which two semesters will be supported by the cost-share** (RA, TA, Graduate Fellowship, or external support). The UFII Fellowship may support students in Summer 2021, Fall 2021, Spring 2022. They do not have to be consecutive semesters. GA salary and tuition are the only expenses allowed. IDC is not included as this is an internal submission. Please check with your individual Dean's Offices as 10% SPA may apply from their office should you be awarded.
- **UFII Departmental Signature Coversheet:** This is a coversheet that should be signed by all the relevant parties that will show college/departmental awareness of any funds committed for the cost share portions.

How UFII Fellowships Work

All UFII Fellowships are awarded via internal cash-based fund with a project number. In which, the awarded balance is deposited for the department/PI's use on the awarded student's salary and/or tuition dollars. The employment of the awarded student is managed by the PI's department and not by UFII. This award does not affect the student's already established salary or tuition amounts.

All awards are reviewed for compliance with the established spending restrictions as stated in this RFA. Any violations will be requested to be removed and will be the sole liability of the mentoring PI's department.

Awards are made to the specific students submitted. Any exchanges or changes should be immediately communicated to Alethea Geiger (ageiger0213@ufl.edu) and/or George Michailidis (gmichail@ufl.edu). Please attach a justification for the change as well as the

replacement student's CV. The continuation of funding in this situation is at the discretion of the UF Informatics Institute and is based on qualification of the replacement student selected.

Eligibility

- Principal investigators (The Lead Mentor in the case of this RFA) must meet the [guidelines for Principal Investigator status](#) as outlined by UF's Division of Sponsored Programs.
- Nominee(s) must be enrolled in a Doctoral Program here at UF.

Awardee Requirements

- Awarded Nominees will be required to present at least one poster session at a UFII Sponsored or other event approved by Dr. George Michailidis regarding their research.
- Awarded Nominees will be required to present at least one talk at the weekly UFII Journal Club, hosted for all UFII Fellows (both Post Doc and Graduate Student) and their mentors.
- All presentations and publications resulting from work funded by UFII Fellowship must include a funding citation:
"Research reported in this publication was supported by the University of Florida Informatics Institute Fellowship Program."
- Awardees must notify the UFII during the funding period if there is a significant change in the scope of work that would affect the outcome of the project or necessitate re-budgeting, extension of time, or a change of the nominee the award covers.

Review Process and Criteria

Proposals submitted by the faculty to UFII will be reviewed by faculty review panels, which include members of the UFII Steering Committee. The faculty review panels will make recommendations to the Director of UFII and a decision will be finalized.

Budgeting and Spending Requirements

- Funds must be used to cover the requested nominated Graduates Student's salary and tuition only.
- **Cost share required:** All nominations must show a minimum of 50% of support for the Graduate Student during the 2 year duration of the award from other sources (Graduate Fellowship, Teaching Assistantship, Research Assistantships, etc.). This is not tracked within the UF cost share systems but is a show to UFII the student has outside support.
- Funds are non-transferable.
- Funds must be used in the 24-month period following their release. Any un-spent funds will be returned to the UFII at the end of the 24-month funding period.
- Continued funding during the award period is contingent on compliance with awardee requirements.

Application Instructions

All nominating departments and/or mentors will need to submit the completed application package via the UFII Fellowship Submission portal. All files must be of a maximum file size of 2MB or smaller. All applications must include the following (as outlined in the Nomination Requirements section):

- Statement by Department/Graduate Coordinator
- Student's personal statement
- Copy of dissertation title and dissertation abstract
- 3 letters of recommendation for each nominee
- CV of each nominee
- Proposed timetable of requested UFII Support
- UFII Departmental Signature Coversheet

All applications must use single spacing; font size no smaller than 11 point; minimum 0.5 inch margins; tables and figures legends can be in 10 point.

Contact for Questions

Please email questions to Alethea Geiger (ageiger0213@ufl.edu) or George Michailidis (gmichail@ufl.edu).