The Montana State University (MSU) McNair Graduate Tuition Waiver was created to encourage promising undergraduate McNair Scholars to pursue advanced graduate education at MSU. The Graduate School at MSU will award up to two graduate in-state tuition waivers for students who are fully admitted and enrolled in the Fall 2017. In the case of a doctoral student, the waivers are for the first and third years only; in the case of a master’s student, the waivers are for the first year only.

MSU McNair Graduate Tuition Waivers support entering graduate students who are alumni of the MSU McNair Scholars Program. The admitting graduate program must provide tuition waivers for the doctoral student in the second and fourth years, and for a master’s student in the second year. Any appointments (GTA/GRA) must be commensurate with department practices.

GUIDELINES

Award Details and Stipends
The MSU McNair Graduate Tuition Waiver will provide entering doctoral graduate students with a first and third-year graduate in-state tuition waiver (excluding benefits and fees). In the case of the entering master’s graduate students, the in-state tuition waiver is for the first year only. The qualified candidates are eligible for up to six (6) credits/academic term of in-state tuition waivers (fall and spring only). Benefits and fees are the responsibility of the student and/or admitting department. It is the responsibility of the graduate program director or research advisor to ensure that the tuition waiver will be used only for credits that apply towards the degree program and appear on an approved program of study.

Departments admitting MSU McNair Scholars, who receive the MSU McNair Graduate Tuition Waiver must commit to providing graduate tuition support an additional two-years (i.e., first and third year) in the case of the doctoral student or an additional one-year in the case of the master’s student. Any appointments (GTA/GRA) must be commensurate with department practices.

MSU awards the in-state tuition waivers only to qualified MSU McNair graduate students, thus the waivers are not transferable to other students.

Eligibility
The nominee must:
- be a U.S. Citizen or Permanent Resident,
- have completed the MSU McNair Scholars Program,
- be newly admitted to a graduate degree program for fall 2017,
- have a GPA of 3.3 or higher in upper division undergraduate courses, and
• have not been awarded a full tuition waiver from MSU or outside agencies.

Note 1: Students entering doctoral degree programs will receive priority application review. Note 2: Currently enrolled doctoral graduate students are not eligible.

Nominations
The awarding of MSU McNair Graduate Tuition Waivers is based on a nomination from the graduate program director or research advisor. All graduate programs are eligible to nominate students; a program may nominate up to two fully admitted graduate students. STEM disciplines are preferred.

The admitting program will submit the MSU McNair Graduate Tuition Waiver Nomination Cover sheet along with all of the supporting documents. Nominated students must be fully admitted to the graduate program.

Nomination Deadline
The MSU McNair Graduate Tuition Waiver Nomination Cover sheet and all supporting documents must be submitted electronically in a single email attachment, PDF (portable document format), to Kathy.marcinko@montana.edu, no later than 5:00 pm MDT on Monday April 17, 2017.

Selection
Selection decisions will be based on the nominee’s undergraduate GPA, relevant test scores, personal statement, and the admitting department’s letter of support. Doctoral students will have priority.

The Graduate School will appoint a campus selection committee, if necessary, with broad disciplinary representation.

Progress Reports
The department named in the awarded MSU McNair Graduate Tuition Waiver is expected to report on whether or not the student has accepted in a timely fashion. In the event that the student has declined, The Graduate School then may offer the tuition waiver to an alternate nominee, who may or may not be an applicant to the same department.

Departments will submit a brief report to The Graduate School on the progress of their MSU McNair Graduate Scholar(s) at the conclusion of each academic year of graduate studies. The MSU McNair Graduate Scholar also will submit a brief progress report to The Graduate School at the conclusion of each academic year.

Contact
For more information contact The Graduate School (melisenda.edwards@montana.edu).