

# **THE ALEXANDER FELLOWSHIP**

**Virginia Commonwealth University**  
**School of Dentistry**

## **Purpose**

The purpose of this fellowship program is to afford funds to deserving postgraduate students in the School of Dentistry to pursue research activities while in training at the School of Dentistry. It is crucial that dentists, whether practicing or in academic careers, understand the role of research in dentistry and appreciate its impact on the changes that the profession will experience in years to come. In order to encourage original and creative research by postgraduate students, the Alexander Fellowship will provide funds for a limited number of outstanding research projects each year.

In order to facilitate the selection of meritorious fellows, the following guidelines have been formulated to aid student and faculty sponsors in applying for Alexander Fellowships and to aid the selection committee in its deliberations.

## **Eligibility and Requirements for Students and Sponsors**

1. Students in any of the postgraduate programs in Dentistry may apply to the Research Committee for the Alexander Fellowship. Excluded from eligibility are individuals holding research fellowships from other sources, eg. Dentist Scientist Award, Physician Scientist Award.
2. Funds from the fellowship are to be used exclusively for costs related to performance of a research project. Such costs may include, but are not necessarily limited to, the costs of supplies, equipment, and consultation fees. Funds may not be used for travel (unless the travel is required for performance of the research project) or for a stipend for the fellow.
3. The period of the fellowship will be 18 months, after which unused funds will be returned to the endowment account for future use.
4. A maximum of \$1,500 may be requested. It is expected that a detailed budget and rationale will be included with the application. If additional funds will be needed to complete the project, the source of funding should be indicated.
5. A faculty sponsor or sponsors must be identified with the application. A faculty member may sponsor more than one student per year.

## **Application Procedure**

1. Application forms for these fellowships are amended to these instructions.
2. The completed application, along with 15 copies, must be delivered to the Chairman, Research Committee by **March 1**; earliest funding of the fellowship will be **April 1**.

3. Applications will be judged on the quality and suitability of the project, the student, and the faculty sponsor. Evaluation will be performed by the Research Committee, School of Dentistry, which will award the fellowships and notify the recipients.
4. The applicant will complete items 1-9 in the application form. The research proposal, developed in concert with the sponsor, should be well thought out, concise, and clear. The proposal should reflect the applicant's initiative and reasoning ability. The sponsor must complete the remaining items. In addition, the Program Director and Department Chairman will endorse the completed application.
5. The application must be prepared using the following format:
  - A. Title
  - B. Specific Aim(s)
  - C. Background and Significance
  - D. Research Design and Methods

(The following sections do not count towards the page limitation):

- E. Human Subjects (please verify approval by Committee on the Conduct of Human Research if appropriate)
- F. Vertebrate Animals (please verify approval of protocol by IACUC if appropriate)
- G. Literature Cited
- H. Budget and Justification

### **Obligations of the Alexander Fellow**

1. A progress report of not less than 200 words must be submitted by the Fellow and Sponsor to the Chairman, Research Committee at the termination of the fellowship.
2. Any publication resulting from this research should acknowledge support by the Alexander Fellowship Fund.
3. Awardees will be obligated to present the results of their research at the School of Dentistry's annual Clinic Day program.

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