

GradEdge / JumpStart FAQ

1. What is the purpose of the program?

This program is designed to help prepare you for graduate school and to give you a head start on your research. One of the most important goals of the program is to help all eligible students generate a fellowship application packet. Students are enrolled in either the Ford Predoctoral Fellowship writing series or the NSF GRFP workshop series, depending on their application information and PI's recommendation. Both are very prestigious fellowships that provide three years of full funding.

By starting your graduate school experience early, we enable you to begin your research so that you have something to write about in your research statement; initiate your relationship with a PI who will be able to write a well-informed letter of recommendation for you; and access assistance in the writing process so that you have the required statements drafted before classes commence in the Fall. You are only eligible for these fellowships in your first year or two of graduate school, so it is important to prepare and apply early!

2. What are the dates of the program?

Please visit our website <https://graduate.ucr.edu/gejs>.

3. Am I able to choose a specific faculty member as my faculty mentor?

You can certainly request a specific faculty member's lab, but availability depends on many factors. Some will be unable to take summer students due to travel for research, space in the lab, timing of sabbatical, etc. Each program works to place each student with a PI whose work closely matches the student's research interests. By the time we begin communicating with students regarding the summer program (usually around the beginning of May), we make every effort to ensure that the students are already paired with a suitable summer PI.

4. Will this faculty mentor be my research PI throughout graduate school?

This largely depends on the program of study and the specific faculty mentor. Some of our departments allow students to complete lab rotations to "test out" different labs and gain different skills in each. If your department is one that uses

lab rotations, this summer research will constitute your first rotation. However, in programs where your PI is selected before you begin the program, you may not be paired with that PI for the summer if they are unavailable to participate as a faculty mentor. Neither of these scenarios affects your eligibility to apply for the fellowships or your participation in any of the summer programming.

5. What types of activities will I participate in as a GradEdge/JumpStart student?

First and foremost, you will begin your research. You will also have a writing workshop that meets once per week in which you will generate your fellowship application materials; a statistics and programming bootcamp that meets once per week; a journal club that meets once during the program; and a weekly development seminar that will cover such topics as research ethics, time management, and campus resources. Additionally, social and community activities will be offered, but are not mandatory.

6. Will I be working 40 hours/week?

This largely depends on your research schedule. Your required programmatic activities should require about 10 hours per week. Your faculty mentor will be aware of your time commitment to the program outside of your research.

7. Is housing provided for students participating in the program?

Housing is NOT provided. There is a graduate student living community at UCR and if you choose to live there for your first year, housing is guaranteed. Contracts usually begin in September, but if you want to move directly into the graduate living community, we will work with housing to attempt to secure a move-in date before the program begins in July. If you know you would like to live in the graduate student living community and will want to move in by the start of the program in July, you should contact UCR Housing at 951-827-6350 (<http://housing.ucr.edu/get-housing/index.html>) as soon as you submit your Statement of Intent to Register, as spaces are limited in the early move-in locations. If you need confirmation of your early arrival, contact GradSuccess Director Hillary Jenks at 951-827-6113 or hillary.jenks@ucr.edu.

8. Will I have access to the Graduate Student Health Insurance Program (GSHIP) while I am a participant?

Yes, by accepting this program you are eligible for GSHIP beginning July 1st. This includes medical, dental, and vision insurance. You can opt out of this coverage, and you will get more information about how to do so in June.