



Spring 2020 CCBM Fellowship Guidelines & Call for Applications

**Deadline for submission
Friday, October 4, 2019 (5:00 pm Pacific Time)**

The [NSF-CREST Center for Cellular and Biomolecular Machines](https://ccbm.ucmerced.edu) sponsors CCBM Fellowships to provide support to outstanding continuing graduate students from the CCBM Scholar cohort in order to facilitate their focus on their research. The award is intended to relieve the Fellow from service obligations for full-time attention to research relevant to the research mission of CCBM. Fellowships will cover tuition, fees and stipend equivalent to a GSR and are meant specifically for costs of attendance (i.e. tuition, fees, books and supplies) and for general support (living, transportation, and personal expenses) necessary to support the pursuit of educational and career goals. Fellows will also be expected to actively participate in center activities, including thrust meetings and at least one center event, in spring semester. In conjunction with two or more faculty advisors, each student may submit one fellowship application.

More information:

CCBM Fellow benefits provided, as well as other requirements: <https://ccbm.ucmerced.edu/education/graduate>

Center funding opportunities: <https://ccbm.ucmerced.edu/funding-0>

Guidelines

Proposers should provide all the information pertinent to the criteria listed below.

Regarding the research proposal, proposers should write up to two pages (single-spaced, 11 point font, 1 inch margins, any figures or tables in-line) to describe the research project and activities to be conducted over the semester. Descriptions should be specific, well-defined, and written in clear general terms with appropriate background and context suitable for review by a non-expert in your specific area of research. Proposals should also highlight the collaborative nature of the work and explain the scholarly outcomes that are expected to come from the support (i.e. papers to be submitted, proposals prepared, conferences presentations expected).

Proposals must also include a letter of support co-signed by two faculty advisors who are CREST CCBM faculty. The letter should address the qualifications and merits of the applicant, plus the impact that this fellowship would have on the progress of the CCBM related project, the completion of the student's degree, and the student's career goals. The letter should also address a plan for how the co-mentoring will be carried out.

Qualifications

- Both faculty advisors must be CREST-CCBM faculty.
- Applicants must be current CCBM Scholars (as of deadline).
- Applicants must currently be enrolled in at least 12 units in a PhD graduate program, and expect to maintain this enrollment through the 2019-20 academic year.
- Applicants must be in good academic standing.
- Applicants must be either U.S. citizens, U.S. nationals, or permanent residents, as per National Science Foundation (NSF) funding guidelines.
- Fellowship support may not be combined with other sources of support (e.g. other grant funds).

Criteria

Grants will be awarded on a competitive basis, and it may not be possible to fund all worthy proposals. The CCBM Executive Committee will coordinate proposal review based on the following criteria (in no particular order):

1. The student's academic accomplishments (e.g., publications, presentations) and credentials (e.g., current graduate GPA).
2. Student progress towards degree (e.g., year in program, achievements relative to time in program)
3. Quality of the proposed research, its collaborative nature, and its fit with the CCBM research mission.
4. Potential for beneficial outcomes (papers, presentations, timely completion of the degree).
5. A description of results from any previous CCBM fellowship funding.

After ranking applications, the CCBM executive committee will set a cutoff line for funding and make awards. We anticipate making 5-6 fellowship awards for Spring 2020.

Reporting Outcomes

Fellowships support specific research projects by researchers, and a full report will be requested concerning the outcomes at the end of Spring 2020 to be included in materials for assessment and NSF Annual Report preparation.

All publications, presentations, posters, etc. must acknowledge support from:

NSF-CREST: Center for Cellular and Biomolecular Machines at UC Merced (NSF-HRD-1547848).

All expenditures are subject to applicable University of California regulations.

Application Procedure

All applications should be submitted electronically in combined pdf format to CCBM Executive Director Carrie Kouadio (ckouadio@ucmerced.edu).

Label your pdf submission "LASTNAME_Firstname_CCBM_Fellowship_Spring_2020.pdf." The e-mail's subject line should read "CCBM Spring 2020 Fellowship Application."

A complete application must contain the following items, in the specified sequence. The file can be continuous (i.e., a new page is not needed for each section), but each section should be clearly labeled. The advisors' letter of support may be included in the application pdf or sent separately by the deadline.

1. Cover/summary sheet information: Student name; Advisor name and rank; School; Contact information; Project title; Abstract of proposal (150 words maximum); current graduate GPA; year started graduate training at UC Merced; progress towards PhD degree (e.g., prelim passed, qualifying exams, years in program with PIs) and expected time to graduation.
2. Research Description (two pages maximum including citations).
3. Human Subjects and/or Animal Use approval information if applicable.
4. Advisors' letter of support.
5. CV listing all of the student's publications, presentations, posters, exhibits, performances, awards, and any other academic accolades.

Please note that since this is a competitive proposal, incorrect formatting, file types and content omissions will likely result in your proposal receiving a low priority score.