

Introduction to GradFund

Fall 2026



RUTGERS UNIVERSITY
School of Graduate Studies

GradFund

Fellowship Advising through Peer Mentoring

Outline

1. What is GradFund?
2. The Graduate Funding Landscape
3. Overview of GradFund Services
4. Upcoming Programs
5. Next Steps
6. Q&A

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1 What is GradFund?



Our mission

As an SGS service, our mission is to help graduate students apply for extramural, merit-based funding to fund graduate study and research



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GradFund peer mentoring



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2 The Graduate Funding Landscape



Why apply for funding?

- Provides **more opportunities** for research, programs, and/or training
- Enhances your CV and **improve your competitiveness** for the job market
- Drafting proposals can help **solidify your research project** and **practice communicating** it to a wide audience
- Help to **fund** your graduate studies and **bring recognition** to your scholarly activities

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External funding

- **Key factors:** academic preparation and background, stage of study, area of study, career goals
- **Types of support:** research grants and fellowships; writing fellowships; scholarships; grants for travel, archival research, language study, or specialized training

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Award types

- **Scholarship:** support for tuition and associated costs of degree program
- **Grant:** support for research expenses, such as travel, equipment, etc.
- **Fellowship:** support for living expenses while conducting research/completing degree program

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Eligibility criteria

- Discipline
- Research topic, theme, or location
- Academic preparation and background
- Stage of study
- Career goals

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Integrate Applying for Funding into Your Graduate Career (PhD)



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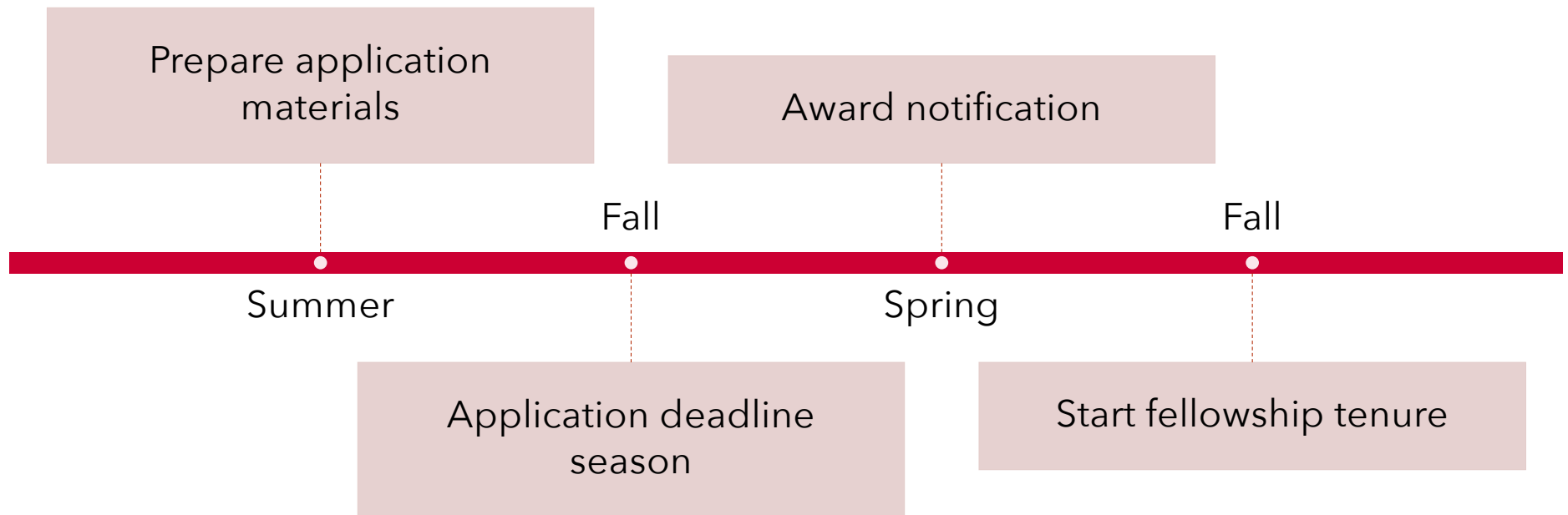
Application Timelines

- Apply the year before you need funding
- Begin to develop your application 2-6 months before the deadline
- Many of the deadlines fall between September and December, annually

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An Example Fellowship Application Timeline



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3 GradFund services



GradFund core services

- Canvas Self-Paced Course on Writing Fellowship and Grant Applications
- Individual meetings
- Mentoring programs
- Workshops and presentations

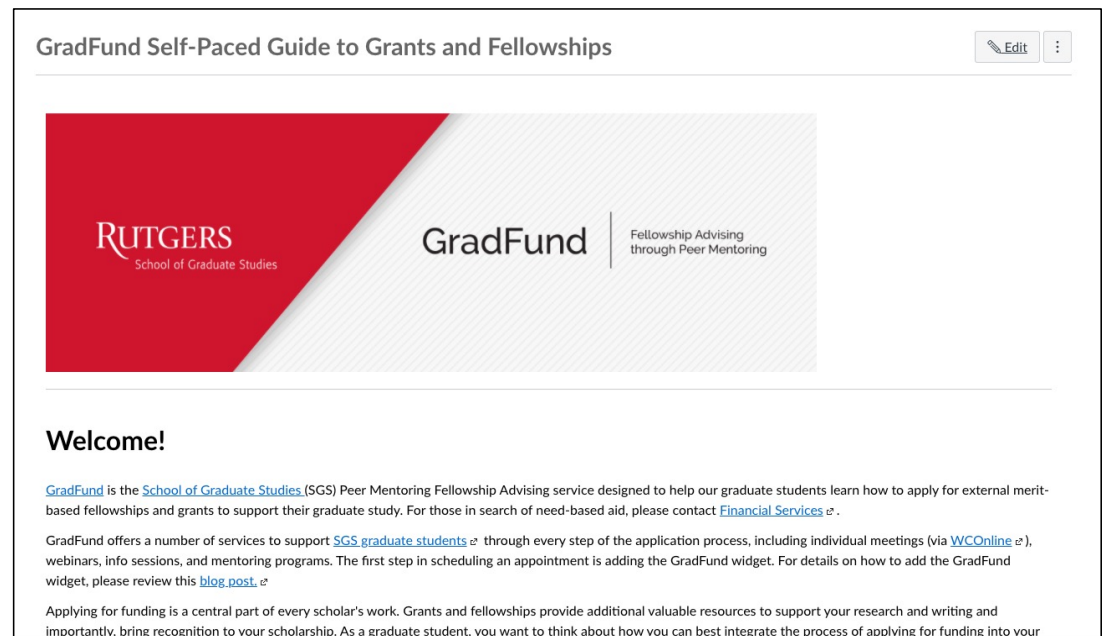
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GradFund Self-Paced Guide to Fellowships and Grants on Canvas

- **Enroll** on canvas
- Explore modules that will walk you step by step through the process of applying to external fellowships and grants
- Receive Fellowship and Grant Announcements





Account



Dashboard



Courses



Groups



Calendar



Inbox



History



Commons



My Kaltura
Media



Help



GradFund Self-Paced Guide to Grants and Fellowships > Modules

Home

Modules

Announcements

Ally Course
Accessibility Report

Kaltura Course Gallery

Collaborations

Course Analytics

Student Instructional
Rating Survey

Rutgers Libraries

Piazza

Lucid (Whiteboard)

Cisco Webex

R Community

Reading List

Resources for
Students

Portfolio

TidyUP

Syllabus



▾ Getting Started

▮  [How To Schedule Your Individual Advising Appointment](#)

▾ Module 1: Integrating the Proposal Development Process into Your Research Career

▮  [Why Apply for Research Funding?](#)

▾ Module 2: Assessing Your Funding Needs

▮  [Assessing Your Funding Needs](#)

GradFund individual advising appointments

- 1. How to Research Funding Opportunities:** to learn how to effectively research funding opportunities to support your graduate study and research.
- 2. Help with a Funder:** to learn more about the funder's review process and how to best frame your research and plans to the funder's goals.
- 3. Application Review:** to review application materials for one award application.

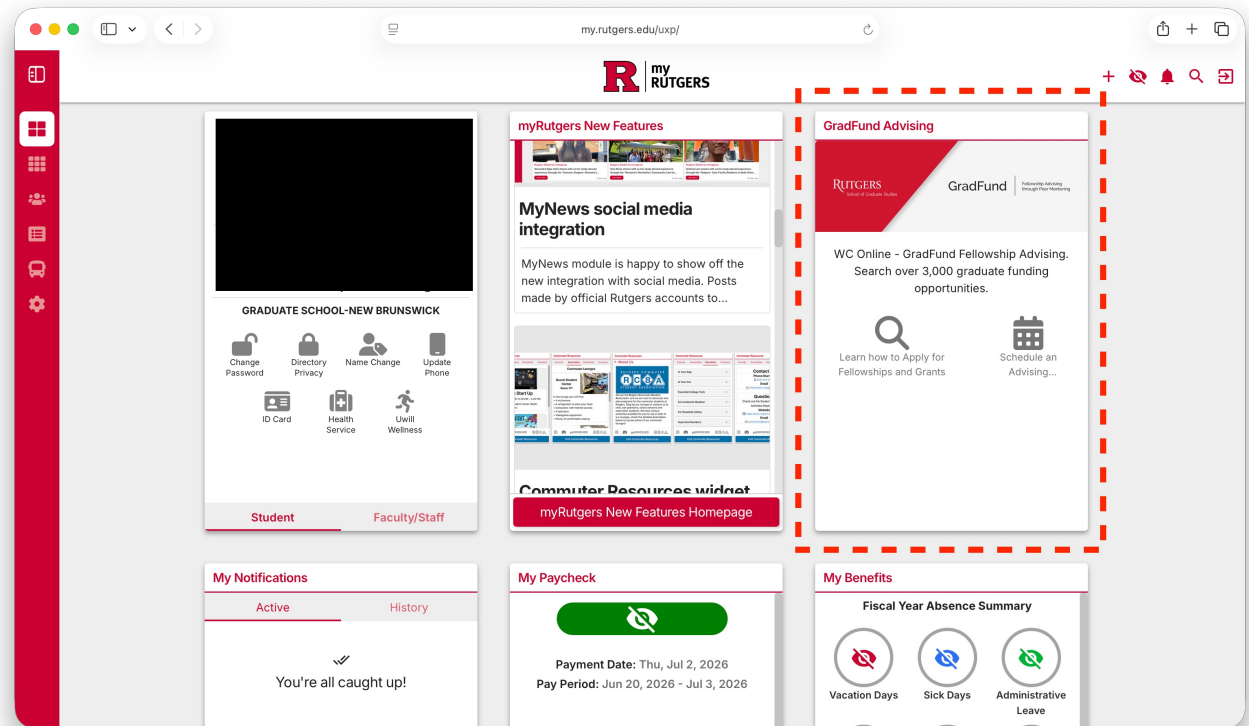
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How to Schedule a GradFund Appointment

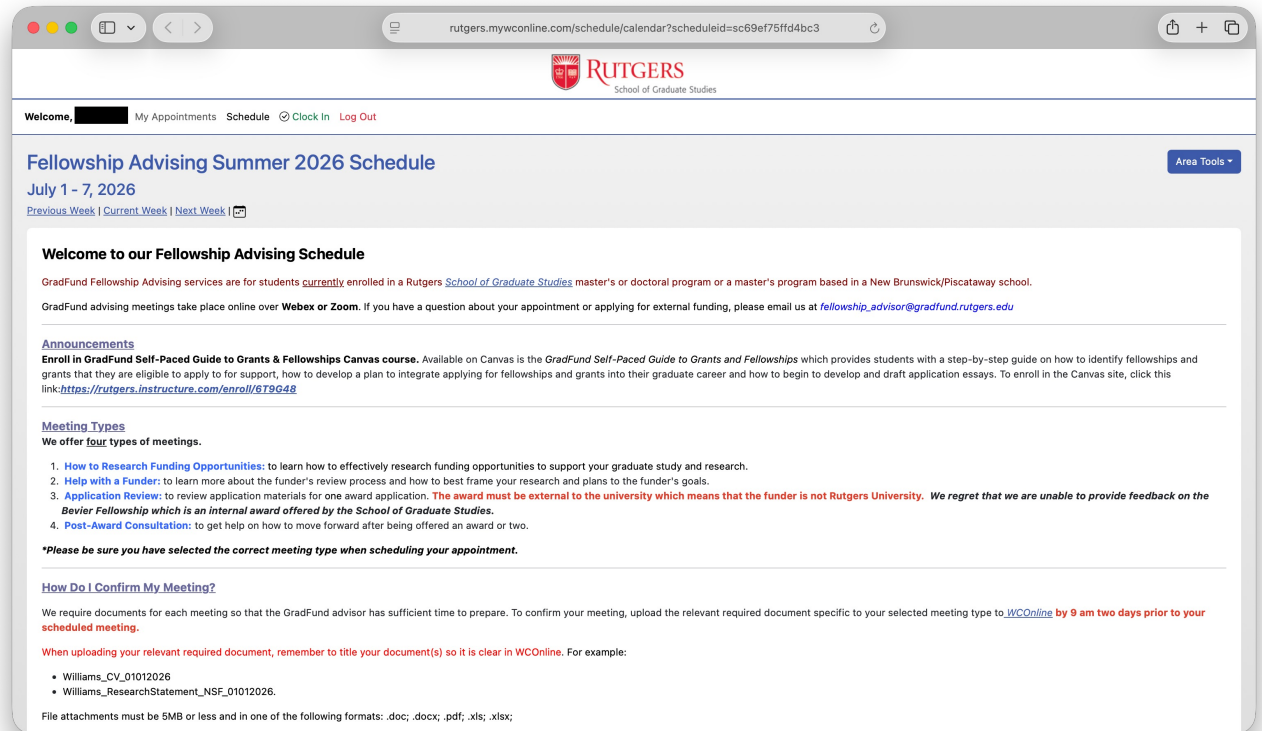
Navigate to [myRutgers Portal](https://myRutgers.edu/uxp/) and click the **"Schedule an Advising Appointment"** icon on the GradFund Advising widget.



How to Navigate WCOOnline

You will arrive at the **WCOOnline scheduling platform**.

You can then view the GradFund appointment schedule and read information on booking meetings and meeting types.



How to Book on WCOOnline

To schedule a meeting in WCOOnline, scroll down and select an appointment date and time slot.

The white slots indicate availability, blue slots represent scheduled appointments, and black slots are unavailable.

The screenshot shows a web browser window with the URL `rutgers.mywconline.com/schedule/calendar?scheduleid=sc69ef75ffd4bc3`. The calendar displays a weekly view for July. The table below represents the data shown in the calendar.

Day	10:00 am	11:00 am	12:00 pm	1:00 pm	2:00 pm	3:00 pm
Jul. 1: Wednesday						
Jamie Gagliano						
Tyler Carson						
Rebecca Arends						
Jennifer Vlicchez						
Emma Waltman						
Jul. 2: Thursday						
Jamie Gagliano						
Jennifer Vlicchez						
Jul. 3: Friday						
Jul. 6: Monday						
Jamie Gagliano						
Anna Nath						
Jennifer Vlicchez						
Jul. 7: Tuesday						
Jamie Gagliano						
Tyler Carson						
Anna Nath						
Jennifer Vlicchez						
Emma Waltman						

Navigation links: [Previous Week](#) | [Current Week](#) | [Next Week](#) | [📅](#)

Footer: WCONLINE v2026.6.8 © 2026 [ToS](#)

Confirming Your GradFund Appointment

- Book a meeting by clicking on the slot based on your preferences
- **"Create New Appointment"** will appear
- Answer 7 questions about your goals, select your desired meeting type, and upload documents

The screenshot displays the Rutgers mywconline calendar interface. On the left, a calendar grid shows dates from July 1st to July 7th. Each date has a list of names (Jamie Gaolano, Tyler Carson, Rebecca Arends, Jennifer Vilchez, Emma Waltman) and a time slot (10:00 am). A modal form titled "Create New Appointment" is open in the center. The form includes a "Client" dropdown menu with "Vilchez, Jennifer (jav200@rutgers.edu)" selected. Below this, the date and time are set to "Thursday, Jul. 2, 2026 | 1:00 pm to 2:00 pm" with a "Repeating Options" link. A section titled "APPOINTMENT LIMITS" states "Appointments must be 1 hour in length." Below this, the email "Jamie's email: fellowship_advisor@gradfund.rutgers.edu" is displayed, along with a note that emails sent to Jamie's personal account will not receive a response. The form also includes "Online (Webex or Zoom) Instructions" and "Appointment Details" sections. The "Appointment Details" section contains two questions: "1) What are your meeting goals?" and "2) If there is a particular award that you would like to focus on, what is the NAME of the award? Remember, we only focus on EXTERNAL awards and ONE award per meeting." The form has a "Create Appointment" button at the bottom.

4 Upcoming programs



Upcoming webinars

Date	Time	Webinar title (all on Zoom)
Sep 18	1-2	<u>Fellowship and Grant Opportunities for Master's Students</u>
Sep 22	1-2	<u>How to Research Funding Opportunities for Graduate Students</u>
Nov 12	1-2	<u>How to Research Funding Opportunities for Graduate Students</u>
Sep 24	1-2	<u>Funding Archival Research</u>
Nov 10	1-2	<u>Funding Archival Research</u>

Note: Advanced registration is required. Register by clicking a link above

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Proposal Writing 101 Workshops

Learn best practices and improve your writing through peer-review

Date	Time	Workshop Focus (all on Zoom)
Sep 29	1-4	<u>Humanities & Social Sciences graduate students (your choice of target award)</u>
Oct 1	1-4	<u>NSF Graduate Research Fellowship Program (GRFP)</u>
Oct 6	1-4	<u>Mellon/ACLS Dissertation Innovation Fellowship</u>
Oct 8	1-4	<u>STEM graduate students (your choice of target award)</u>

Note: Advanced registration is required. You must upload materials a week before the workshop.
Register by clicking a link above

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Navigating the Hidden Curriculum series

- Small-group series designed to help first- and second-year doctoral students develop the knowledge, skills, and strategies that are often essential for academic success but rarely taught explicitly.
- Based on Jessica Calarco's book: *A Field Guide to Grad School: Uncovering the Hidden Curriculum*
- Covers topics including 'staying on track in your program', 'deciphering academic jargon,' 'balancing teaching, research, service, and life' and more

This series meets every other Wednesday from 1:00-2:00 pm, beginning Sep 16 and running through Mar 24. [Register here.](#)

Note: Advanced registration is required.
Registration for the Fall semester reflects a commitment to attend and participate.

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5 Next Steps



Next Steps

- Request access to the Canvas site
GradFund [Self-Paced Guide to Grants and Fellowships](#)
- Register for webinars and/or workshops
- If you are interested in a particular award, consult with your advisor and consider [scheduling](#) a Help With A Funder meeting

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6 Q&A



*Please type your
questions using the Q&A
function in Zoom. Thanks!*