

OLIVIA LONG CONVERSE GRADUATE FELLOWSHIP

Overview

The Converse Fellowship supports graduate research on terrestrial plants in Mexico. Fellowships will be granted for field-oriented studies. Both research and research-related travel expenses are appropriate. Awards may be made for one quarter (maximum stipend \$10,834) or for one academic year (maximum stipend \$32,500) and may be received more than once.

Eligibility

To be eligible, applicants:

- Must be UCSB graduate student with financial need; domestic students must file the FAFSA.
- Must be registered or on approved Leave of Absence during the Spring quarter of the current academic year
- Must not be beyond time-to-degree standards.
- Must not hold an active multi-year central fellowship package (e.g. students in a departmental appointment year of a multi-year award); must be in academic good standing at the time of application.
- Supportable areas of research are in one or more of the following areas with a strong preference for research in Mexico: systematic, floristic, vegetational, ecological and phytogeographic botany studies.
- Some applications will also be considered for research in botany in other areas; applicants may describe such studies in the project description.
- Activities not suitable for award include travel to increase familiarity with Mexico, photographic excursions and general plant collecting.

Award Determination

Awardees will be determined based on applicant's merit, need and appropriate intent of the project. Graduate Division will mail notifications of award status to applicants by May of the current year.

Support

This award provides a stipend for one quarter or for one year plus payment of in-state tuition and UC health insurance. Please note that nonresident supplemental tuition will not be provided. Departments may supplement with any combination of appointments up to an average of 35% time during the academic year. (In these cases, Graduate Student Fee Remission will pay fees/UCSHIP from the salary account. The Graduate Division will pay the balance of fees if needed.)

Application Materials

- This form (2 pages). International students may provide the financial statement (page 2) in lieu of FAFSA information
- Curriculum Vitae (1 page maximum, single-spaced)
- Description of research project (one to two pages, single-spaced)
- Succinctly state your objective and the significance of your research; indicate how the topic fits the eligibility requirements of the fellowship; describe your general and specific interests in biological research; tell why the site is important to the study; give a detailed but brief budget of research costs (may include travel, supplies and minor equipment costs); give a study plan and goals and briefly discuss your qualifications for the study
- One letter of recommendation from the student's faculty mentor

Applicant's Information

Name: _____ Perm #: _____

E-mail: _____

Department: _____

Project Title (or keywords): _____

Date of Advancement: _____ If not, date expected: _____

Faculty Mentor: _____

Did you submit a FAFSA for the upcoming academic year? Yes No

Student Signature: _____ Date: _____

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CALCULATION OF UNMET FINANCIAL NEED – INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

Name _____ Perm _____

Phone _____ E-mail _____

Country of Citizenship _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Permanent Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Birthdate _____ Entered UCSB _____
Quarter Year

Married? YES NO Spouse's Name _____

Spouse in U.S.? YES NO Spouse's Citizenship _____

Is spouse a UCSB student? YES NO

If yes, list funding from UCSB _____

Spouse working? YES NO Employer _____

Monthly Salary _____ Employer's Phone Number _____

If you have children, are they in the U.S.? YES NO

Names and ages _____

Financial Information

Expenses for 2025-26 *(based on 2024-25 fees)*

Graduate Student Fees	15,036
Nonresident Tuition	15,102
Health Insurance	8,673
Living (rent, food, utilities, phone)	21,048
Books and Supplies	1,413
Personal Expenses	3,171
Transportation	3,693
Subtotal - Expenses	68,136

Family/Student Contribution for 2025-26

From Parents, Relatives, Spouse _____
Savings, Investment Income _____

Subtotal - Family/Student Contribution _____

Total Unmet Financial Need (Expenses Less Family/Student Contribution) _____

The information that I have given above is true and correct. If I receive any additional aid, I will contact the Graduate Division.

Signature _____ Date _____

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Faculty mentor: _____

So that the fellowship applicant does NOT receive a copy of your recommendation, your letter must be submitted using a separate DocuSign form. To do this please:

- 1) Open the separate DocuSign link below where you will upload your letter, sign and submit.
- 2) Acknowledge that you will submit the letter by signing this form and submit.

I have received a copy of this student's completed application and agree to send a letter of recommendation directly to the Graduate Division using the following link.

Faculty Signature: _____ Date: _____