

U.S. Department of Education  
Office of Higher Education Programs

Graduate Assistance in Areas of National Need

AASCU - Grants Resource Center

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# Disclaimer

- \* This is a brief summary of the program and highlights from the Fiscal Year (FY) 2015 competition.
- \* Do not rely solely on the information in this document.
- \* GAANN program regulations and statute are the official documents governing the program.

# Program Authorization

- \* The Graduate Assistance in Areas of National Need (GAANN) program was authorized in 1988 under Title VII of the Higher Education Act of 1965, Part A, Subpart 2, as amended.
- \* Reauthorized in 2008.

# GAANN Description

- \* GAANN funds fellowships, through academic departments and programs of institutions of higher education (IHEs), to assist graduate students with excellent academic records who demonstrate financial need, and plan to pursue the highest degree available in their course of study at the institution in a field designated as an area of national need.

# GAANN Areas of National Need

## \* **Designation of Areas**

- \* Consultation with Federal and nonprofit agencies the secretary shall take into consideration:
  - \* The extent to which the interest in the area is compelling;
  - \* The extent to which other Federal programs support post-baccalaureate study in the area concerned;
  - \* An assessment of how the program may achieve the most significant impact with available resources; and
  - \* An assessment of current (as of the time of the designation) and future professional workforce needs of the United States.

# GAANN Areas History

- \* First grants awarded in 1988
  - \* Four areas designated
- \* Areas of need updated prior to a competition

# FY 2015 GAANN Areas of National Need

- \* Area, Ethnic, and Cultural Studies
- \* Biological Sciences/Life Sciences
- \* Chemistry
- \* Computer & Information Sciences
- \* Engineering
- \* Foreign Language & Literatures
- \* Mathematics
- \* Nursing
- \* Physics
- \* Psychology
- \* Education Evaluation, Research & Statistics

# GAANN Highlights

- \* GAANN provides three years (36 months) of federal funding
- \* Usual range of fellowships awarded is between three to six.
- \* Required institutional match (cost share) of 25%
- \* No overhead: All funds only for funding fellows stipend and payment of tuition and fees



# GAANN Highlights, cont.

- \* Eligibility
  - \* GAANN Regulation 648.40 – how to select a fellow
  - \* GAANN Regulation 648.70 – conditions a fellow must meet
- \* GAANN is made up of
  - \* Stipend
    - \* Determined under Title IV, Part F (GAANN Regulation 648.51)
    - \* Fellows' living expenses
  - \* Institutional Payment (GAANN Regulation 648.62)
    - \* Tuition and fees

# GAANN Highlights, cont.

- \* FY 2017
  - \* Maximum stipend \$34,000
    - \* Adjusted based on the fellows financial need
  - \* Institutional Payment \$15,426
  - \* Total GAANN fellowship \$49,426

# GAANN Highlights, cont.

- \* **Stipend**

- \* Determined using Title IV, part F (Free Application for Federal Student Aid – FAFSA)
  - \* Not all students qualify for the maximum \$34,000
- \* Used for the Fellows' living expenses
- \* Discuss with institutions' financial aid office if the financial need seems low.

# GAANN Highlights, cont.

## \* **Institutional Payment**

- \* Accepted by institution to pay tuition and fees
- \* Adjusted annually based on the consumer price index (CPI) from the previous year
- \* Approved expenses listed under program regulation 648.62 such as:
  - \* Costs for rental or purchase of any books, materials, or supplies required of students in the same course of study;
  - \* Costs of computer hardware;
  - \* Membership fees of professional associations;
  - \* Travel and per diem to professional association meetings and registration fees;
  - \* International travel, per diem, and registration fees

# GAANN Highlights, cont.

## \* **Institutional Match**

- \* Required 25% cash match from non-federal funds
- \* 25% of the amount of the grant
- \* Approved expenses listed under program regulation 648.63
  - \* Pay for “matching” fellows
  - \* Pay for tuition, fees, and the costs listed under 648.62(b);
  - \* Supplement stipend received by fellow up to the fellow’s demonstrated level of financial need

# GAANN Highlights, cont.

- \* GAANN competition in June 2015
  - \* 95 new grants awarded
  - \* Funding 477 fellowships for three years
- \* GAANN in FY 16
  - \* Funding Down the slate
  - \* 18 new grants
  - \* 90 new fellows

Discipline	Number of Institutional Awards	Number of Fellowships	Funding
Area, Ethnic, and Cultural Studies	2	12	\$590,556
Biological Sciences/Life Sciences	16	88	\$4,330,744
Chemistry	11	52	\$2,559,076
Computer & Information Sciences	7	35	\$1,722,455
Engineering	25	131	\$6,446,903
Foreign Languages & Literatures	2	6	\$295,278
Interdisciplinary	14	68	\$3,346,484
Mathematics	7	35	\$1,722,455
Nursing	2	9	\$442,917
Physics	8	37	\$1,820,881
Psychology	1	4	\$196,852
<b>Total</b>	<b>95</b>	<b>477</b>	<b>\$23,474,601</b>

# GAANN Highlights, cont.

- \* GAANN alumni have become researchers and professors (Examples):
  - \* Research Scientist Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory Research Associate
  - \* Senior Research Scientist Neurology Mayo Clinic
  - \* Tenure track professor at U of MA, Amherst
  - \* NSF Postdoctoral Fellowship
  - \* Scientist at Pfizer
  - \* Post Doctoral Fellow, NASA Goddard Space Flight Center
  - \* Assistant Professor, UC Berkeley



# GAANN Information

- \* GAANN program website:
  - \* <http://www2.ed.gov/programs/gaann/index.html>
- \* Additional information about GAANN available in the FY 2015 technical assistance webinar:
  - \* <http://www2.ed.gov/programs/gaann/resources.html>