

AAUW NATIONAL FELLOWSHIPS & GRANTS -- Investing in Women

Jean Brotherton, jeanlagunabeach@cox.net
AAUW Fund Fellowships & Grants Chair

For more than 130 years, AAUW has funded the educations of countless women so they could follow their dreams. From astronauts to zoologists, the recipients of AAUW's fellowships, grants and awards represent nearly every imaginable field of endeavor. Fellowships and grants were awarded to 250 women and community projects in 2019-20. In the 2020-21 academic year, AAUW awarded \$3.5M in fellowships and grants.

Current Funding Opportunities

Overall, we've given more than \$115 million to over 13,000 women and nonprofit organizations around the world. Our recipients include some of the most influential voices of the past two centuries — women who have helped shape history — as well as nonprofit organizations at the forefront of driving social change.

This funding has a tremendous impact. It helps to ease the burden of student debt, which disproportionately affects women, so that promising women can excel in their fields and become leaders in business, government, academia, community activism, the arts and sciences.

American Fellowships

Funding: \$6,000–\$30,000

Opens: August 1 • **Deadline:** November 1

The American Fellowship program began in 1888, a time when women were discouraged from pursuing an education. It is AAUW's largest fellowship program and the oldest non-institutional source of graduate funding for women in the United States. AAUW American Fellowships support women scholars who are pursuing full-time study to complete dissertations, conducting postdoctoral research full time, or preparing research for publication for eight consecutive weeks. Applicants must be U.S. citizens or permanent residents. Candidates are evaluated on the basis of scholarly excellence; quality and originality of project design; and active commitment to helping women and girls through service in their communities, professions, or fields of research.

Career Development Grants

Funding: \$2,000–\$12,000

Opens: August 1 • **Deadline:** November 15

2019-20 Career Development Grantee Samentha Gunn

Career Development Grants provide funding to women who hold a bachelor's degree and are preparing to advance or change careers or re-enter the workforce in education, health and medical sciences, or social sciences. Primary consideration is given to women of color and women pursuing their first advanced degree or credentials in nontraditional fields. Applicants must be U.S. citizens or permanent residents whose last degree was received before June 30, 2013. Funds are available for tuition, fees, books, supplies, local transportation and dependent care.

AAUW originally designed Career Development Grants in 1972 to offer "encouragement" funding to AAUW members seeking to renew or resume academic work for credit toward career or employment advancement.

Today, grants support course work beyond a bachelor's degree, including a master's degree, second bachelor's degree, certification program or specialized training in technical or professional fields. Course work must be taken at an accredited two- or four-year college or university in the United States or at a technical school that is fully licensed or accredited by the U.S. Department of Education. Funds are not available for doctorate-level work.

Community Action Grants

Funding: \$3,000-\$10,000

Opens: August 1 • **Deadline:** December 1

Community Action Grants provide funding to individuals, AAUW branches and AAUW state organizations as well as community-based nonprofits for innovative programs that promote education and equity through projects focused on encouraging girls to select, before entering college, the physical sciences or engineering as a career. Since 1972, AAUW has provided support to hundreds of communities across the United States.

International Fellowships

Funding: \$18,000–\$30,000

Opens: August 1 • **Deadline:** November 15

International Fellowships are awarded for full-time study or research in the United States to women who are not U.S. citizens or permanent residents. Both graduate and postgraduate studies at accredited U.S. institutions are supported. Applicants must have earned the equivalent of a U.S. bachelor's degree by the application deadline, and must have applied to their proposed institutions of study by the time of the application. Up to five International Master's/First Professional Degree Fellowships are renewable for a second year; fellows will receive application information for this competitive program. Recipients are selected for academic achievement and demonstrated commitment to women and girls. Recipients return to their home countries to become leaders in business, government, academia, community activism, the arts or scientific fields.

International Project Grants

Funding: \$5,000–\$7,000

Opens: August 1 • **Deadline:** November 1

When AAUW International Fellows pursue education in the United States, their commitment to empowering women and girls in their home countries doesn't end — and neither does their need for financial support. To create lasting support around the globe, AAUW awards grants to International Fellowship alumnae who have returned home after successfully completing the course of study for which they received funding. These grants allow alumnae to build on their academic work and implement community-based projects that will improve the lives of women and girls. Alumnae of our International Fellowships and International Project Grants have tackled women's equity issues head-on. From securing property rights for widows to building safe hearths for cassava production, these women are helping the most vulnerable — and the most resilient — members of their communities.

Research Publication Grants in Engineering, Medicine and Science

Funding: \$10,000–\$35,000

Opens: August 1 • **Deadline:** December 1

Having a strong publication record is a key to receiving promotions and tenure in engineering, medicine and science. Yet persistent gender stereotypes and bias in these fields can make it difficult for women to find the time and institutional support needed to publish their research. These grants help women overcome these barriers by funding research projects that will culminate in scholarly publications.

They are open to women scholars conducting basic research in engineering, medicine or the physical or biological sciences and who have a doctorate degree in one of those fields. The grantee must publish their research in a scholarly publication and be listed as a primary author.

Selected Professions Fellowships

Funding: \$5,000–\$18,000

Opens: August 1 • **Deadline:** December 1

Selected Professions Fellowships are awarded to women who intend to pursue a full-time course of study at accredited U.S. institutions during the fellowship year in one of the designated degree programs where women's participation traditionally has been low. Applicants must be U.S. citizens or permanent residents.

These fellowships were established in 1970 with a \$25,000 grant from the Max C. Fleischmann Foundation. Initially, they focused on opening doors for women in the male-dominated fields of law and medicine. However, the focus expanded over time to include science and technology, since the demand for a technologically skilled workforce has grown without proportional representation by women.

Selected Professions Fellowships are awarded for the following master's programs:

- Architecture.
- Computer/information sciences.
- Engineering.
- Mathematics/statistics.

Fellowships in the following degree programs are restricted to women of color, who have been underrepresented in these fields:

- Master's in business administration — applicants may apply for second year of study only.
- Law — applicants may apply for third year of study only.
- Doctorate in medicine — applicants may apply for third or fourth year of study only.

For more information and how to apply, please go to www.aauw.org.