The mission of the Research Enhancement and Leadership (REAL) Fellowship is to enhance the recruitment, retention and success of outstanding graduate students from historically underrepresented groups. The fellowships are awarded to top graduate students seeking admission to UMass Amherst doctoral programs. The following guidelines have been outlined below to clarify the expectations and standards of the fellowship program.

**Program Guidelines as a REAL Fellow**
- You are expected to maintain continuous enrollment as a full-time student in your program and make satisfactory progress towards your degree
- You are expected to serve as a peer mentor for incoming fellows in your discipline/field after your first year
- You are expected to participate in community, mentoring and professional development programs hosted by the Graduate School Office of Inclusion and Engagement throughout the academic year

**Funding Structure**
- The REAL Fellowship Program will provide four years of summer support in the form of a $4000 fellowship each summer *(two years for MFA students)*

**Graduate Fellows Training Grant Guidelines for Conference/Training/Professional Development**
- All REAL Fellows are eligible (but not guaranteed) to earn *one Graduate Fellows Training Grant (up to $500)* per academic year *(July 1 through June 30; multiple applications may be submitted, but only one can be granted)*
- For more information, please see the [Graduate Fellows Training Grant Application](#)

**Exceptions**
- Requests for alternate funding structure will be considered under unusual circumstances
- Alternate funding will only be granted upon prior approval from the Dean of the Graduate School, Dr. Barbara Krauthamer

For questions or concerns, please contact the Assistant Dean for Inclusion and Engagement, Dr. Funmi Adebayo at oadebayo@grad.umass.edu