The DARE Doctoral Fellowship Program awards two-year fellowships to advanced doctoral students who want to investigate and prepare for academic careers and whose presence will help diversify the professoriate. DARE is a program intended to better prepare Stanford Ph.D. students from diverse backgrounds to have successful faculty careers, and, at the same time, contribute to the richness of the educational environment at Stanford. Thus, the program expands the academic “pipeline” in two ways.

Stanford recognizes that progress in diversifying the academic pipeline has been very slow, and that as a selective research university, it is well-positioned to expand the small pools of faculty and graduate students from diverse backgrounds. Stanford’s commitment to diversity is broadly conceived to include (but is not limited to): underrepresented racial and ethnic minorities; first-generation college students; women in natural science and engineering fields; gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender students; students with disabilities; as well as others whose backgrounds and experiences would diversify the professoriate in their academic fields. Applicants from all backgrounds are welcome.

DARE was created in 2008 as a four-year pilot program. The total number of Fellows thus far is 234. The 13th cohort of Fellows will be selected in Spring 2020. The Office of the Vice Provost for Graduate Education (VPGE) administers and evaluates the program.

DARE Fellowships are much more than a funding source. The DARE Program provides an integrated set of activities with a comprehensive reach. The potential to expand graduate and faculty diversity through establishing an internal pipeline program has been noted by many committees and reports at Stanford over the past two decades.

DARE has four primary goals: to help Fellows obtain a faculty position that is a good match for their skills and interests; for Fellows to thrive in those positions and develop into academic leaders; for Fellows to actively work to diversify the academic pipeline behind them; and to do so without extending the Fellows’ time to degree.

Program Elements

The rationale and structure for this program are grounded in research about the educational experiences of doctoral students and the transition to faculty careers. The program is designed around five core components to ensure timely degree completion and promote transitions into the professoriate. Each element has been demonstrated to be successful in other university settings. This program is path breaking in that it draws them together. DARE curriculum is most relevant for those in the final two years of the PhD program.

Stipend and TGR tuition for two academic years. DARE Fellowships provide a generous quarterly stipend and advanced doctoral student (TGR) tuition for up to eight academic quarters beginning in Autumn.
Structured seminars. Professional development workshops and presentations by Stanford faculty and staff to prepare students for the full range of faculty responsibilities and enable them to take on academic leadership roles. In the first year there is a formal three-quarter curriculum. Students learn about faculty professional roles and expectations (seminar-style course in autumn); faculty life at different institution types (day-long visits to regional campuses in winter); and all aspects of the faculty and postdoc job search (weekly presentations in spring).

Mentorship with a Stanford faculty member in addition to the dissertation advisor. Faculty resource advisors meet regularly with their Fellows to provide career guidance. Mentors may be included in DARE activities, such as serving as guest speakers in seminars.

Support to enhance the diversity of Stanford’s graduate student population and to enrich the educational experience of the student community. At some time during the two-year fellowship, DARE Fellows may develop a small project, such as mentoring Stanford undergraduates or contributing to the academic community at one of the community resource centers. Each Fellow is also encouraged to make a recruiting trip to talk about their research and encourage promising undergraduates to apply to graduate school.

Building network of peers across disciplines. Active participation in the community of DARE Fellows provides support during the often-isolating dissertation stage. The commitment to use diversity as an educational asset throughout their careers is shared among Fellows. Fellows will be life-long colleagues who provide one another advice and encouragement.

Selection of Fellows
The 13th cohort of DARE Fellows will be selected in Spring 2020. Awards will be made on a competitive basis. Applications are sought from doctoral students from all fields and programs who plan to investigate and prepare for careers as college or university faculty members. Through their research accomplishments, teaching skills, and commitments to university and community service, candidates must have demonstrated potential to become an academic leader. Preference will be given to those who will be in the final two years of the PhD program by Autumn quarter 2020.

Prospective applicants are encouraged to attend one of three one-hour long information sessions to learn about the program and applying.

Application materials and details are on the VPGE website: http://vpge.stanford.edu/dare

Application Deadline: March 30, 2020