Proposal for Fundraising to Support Campuswide Graduate Fellowships
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We propose to raise funds from individual and corporate donors to support graduate education at UCSF, specifically by creating campuswide Graduate Fellowships to help recruit and support outstanding students across all of the PhD programs.

The benefits of such a program include:

1. **Support for graduate education at a critical juncture.** Graduate programs at UCSF have come under increasing financial strain in recent years due to rapidly increasing student fees and stagnant (at best) federal support for training and research grants. These pressures are unlikely to diminish in the foreseeable future, and the challenges faced by UC have been well-documented at the systemwide level (e.g., [http://www.ucop.edu/services/gradeduc.html](http://www.ucop.edu/services/gradeduc.html)). Private fundraising is one mechanism to support excellence in graduate education at UCSF. Other institutions have successfully employed this strategy, notably Stanford, which is a model for the program proposed here ([http://www.stanford.edu/dept/DoR/Fellows/about/index.html](http://www.stanford.edu/dept/DoR/Fellows/about/index.html)).

2. **Increased competitiveness in recruiting the “best and brightest” prospective students.** The UCSF Graduate Fellowships funded by this initiative would be awarded to prospective students when they are accepted to a graduate program. The students would be chosen from among a pool of the most highly qualified applicants, nominated by the individual graduate programs. The awarding of a graduate fellowship at the time of admission is likely to help with recruiting outstanding students, who will likely have offers of admission from many top institutions, for two reasons. First, these fellowships are likely to be viewed as prestigious, both by prospective students and later by prospective employees. Second, the guaranteed support (we propose 3 years of support) greatly increases their chances of being able to work in a laboratory of their choice and perform research on a topic of their choosing. Supported students who subsequently receive external fellowships would retain the title of UCSF Graduate Fellow, but the funds previously used to support them would be redirected to other students.

3. **The potential to attract new donors to UCSF.** Both individual and corporate donors may be attracted to funding graduate education in a direct, visible manner as proposed here. UCSF’s alumni of course consist exclusively of former graduate students. The Stanford Graduate Fellowship program has attracted robust interest from individual donors ([http://sgf.stanford.edu/support/fellowships.html](http://sgf.stanford.edu/support/fellowships.html)). Certain corporations may also be enthusiastic about supporting graduate education at UCSF, including the local biotechnology industry. Genentech, for example, has already supported graduate fellowships at UCSF through the PIBS program. Donors would be able to meet the students whose fellowships they are funding, and learn about their research. All supported students would be collectively referred to as UCSF Graduate Fellows, but individual fellowships can be named for donors. Gifts could range from support for a single graduate student to fully endowed fellowships.

4. **Increased interdisciplinary interaction among the graduate programs.** The UCSF Graduate Fellows would interact with each other through periodic social and scientific functions, highlighted by a yearly symposium which would be attended by all fellows, interested donors, and members of the UCSF community.