

APPENDIX I

2025-2026 Dr. Dionel Avilés '53 and Dr. James Johnson '67 Fellowship

Submission Deadlines*:***Monday, February 3, 2025, at 5 p.m. CST (Round 1)******Monday, March 3, 2025, at 5 p.m. CST (Round 2)*****Departments/Interdisciplinary Degree Programs must identify which round they wish to submit master's and doctoral nominations by Tuesday, January 21, 2025 at: u.tamu.edu/AJRoundSelection25***PURPOSE**

Texas A&M University is committed to promoting a culture that values and nurtures community, respect, and excellence for all. In line with our belief that a depth and breadth of perspectives, talents, experiences, and backgrounds are indispensable components of a world-class education, the Dr. Dionel Avilés '53 and Dr. James Johnson '67 Fellowship Program seeks to attract, recruit, and support the development of high-achieving graduate students.

ELIGIBILITY

Nominees must be a U.S. resident, U.S. Permanent resident, or an [eligible noncitizen](#) who will earn bachelor's or master's degrees no later than August 2025 and have applied for graduate admission to Texas A&M University for fall 2025. While it is not required that nominees be admitted at the time of nomination, the nominating unit is expected to offer admission to nominees and execute an "admit" decision code in the admission portal should they be awarded the fellowship.

Nominees should have a superior academic record and meet one or more of the following criteria:

- 1) Be a [first-generation student](#);
- 2) Have a disability defined as a physical or mental impairment that substantially limits one or more major life activities, as described in [Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990](#), as amended;
- 3) Be a veteran of the U.S. military; or
- 4) Come from a disadvantaged background, as defined by the [National Institutes of Health \(NIH\)](#), for those who meet **two or more** of the following criteria:
 - Were or are currently homeless, as defined by the McKinney-Vento Assistance Act;
 - Were or are currently in the foster care system, as defined by the Administration for Children and Families;
 - Were eligible for the Federal Free and Reduced Lunch Program for two or more years;
 - Were eligible for Federal Pell grants;
 - Received support from the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children (WIC) as a parent or child;
 - Grew up in one of the following areas: (a) a U.S. rural area, as designated by the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) Rural Health Grants Eligibility Analyzer, or (b) a Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services-designated Low-Income and Health Professional Shortage Areas (qualifying zip codes are included [here](#)). Only one of the two possibilities (a or b) can be used as a criterion for the disadvantaged background definition.

The nomination letter must include a narrative, correlating with criteria items (1) - (4), about the basis of the nominee's eligibility. The nominee will be required to complete a personal statement that will be uploaded with the application.

FUNDING DETAILS AND BENEFITS

The Avilés-Johnson Doctoral Fellowship provides four years of funding for eligible doctoral students enrolling for the first time in a doctoral program in summer or fall 2025.