



April 11, 2011

TO: Provosts, Deans, and Directors

FROM: Philip Furmanski

SUBJECT: TCC/FTA Graduate Fellowship Program in Transportation and Application Instructions – Fifth Round

Please find attached the Transportation Coordinating Council/Federal Transit Administration (TCC/FTA) fifth round graduate fellowship program announcement consisting of information and application instructions. This is one of two Rutgers programs developed in response to federal funding provided to encourage university study and research related to transportation. Note that this particular competitive announcement is for fellowships ***for the six-month period from July 1, 2011 to December 31, 2011***. Details concerning eligibility and the application process are included in this document. Please distribute this program announcement broadly to relevant departments, faculty members and graduate students.

For more information on the TCC visit:

<http://www.tcc.rutgers.edu/>

Please keep in mind the following in relation to the fellowship application:

- **Deadline for the submission of applications is Friday, May, 13, 2011**
- **Proposals must bear a relationship to the Goals and Objectives of the Federal Transit Administration**
- **Notification of award of fellowships is anticipated in June 2011**
- **Period of fellowship is from July 1, 2011 to December 31, 2011**

Transportation Coordinating Council / Federal Transit
Administration (TCC/FTA) Fellowship Program

<http://www.tcc.rutgers.edu/>

**Graduate Fellowship Program
in
Transportation**

Fifth Round

Information and Application Form
for
Student Applicants



**TRANSPORTATION COORDINATING COUNCIL/FEDERAL TRANSIT ADMINISTRATION
(TCC/FTA)**

GRADUATE FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM IN TRANSPORTATION

PROGRAM GOAL

The goal is to increase the number of qualified professionals in transportation through graduate education leading to a master's or a doctoral degree in transportation/infrastructure engineering, planning, policy, and related fields. To learn more about TCC and our program please visit our website at www.tcc.rutgers.edu

In this fifth round the program will provide ***half-year (July 1 through December 31, 2011) stipends of up to \$10,000*** to applicants selected for the program. The stipend will be paid over a six-month period. The program will also provide ***partial*** tuition support.

WHO SHOULD APPLY

Careers in transportation require a diverse range of skills, backgrounds, experiences, and outlooks ranging from engineering and science to social science expertise. Thus, graduate students from diverse fields who wish to focus or further their graduate training by concentrating on research that bears a relationship to the broad field of transportation should consider applying. Proposals must bear a relationship to the strategic goals and objectives of the Federal Transit Administration/USDOT. See below. Applicants should review the *Synthesis of Information Related to Transit Problems* (Transportation Research Board, December 2006) available for download at http://onlinepubs.trb.org/onlinepubs/tcrp/tcrp_rrd_80.pdf when preparing their research statements.

Interested applicants must meet the following requirements:

- a. Have a bachelor's degree or be a graduating senior.
- b. 3.0 GPA in undergraduate or 3.5 GPA in graduate program.
- c. Be enrolled or admitted as a full-time student in a graduate program at Rutgers University.
- d. Have a research project approved by his or her assigned faculty advisor, who must be a full-time tenured or tenure-track faculty member at Rutgers University.

Fellowship recipients:

- a. May not hold full-time employment or a Graduate Assistantship during the duration of the fellowship. Special circumstances, such as full-time summer employment, will be evaluated on a case-by-case basis. We reserve the right to reduce the amount or duration of an award if the support provided from part-time employment exceeds a level typical for full-time student support.



- b. A student may not receive more than one stipend/fellowship originating from a USDOT or FTA source simultaneously.

Faculty members:

- a. No faculty member shall be responsible for sponsoring and mentoring more than one fellowship recipient in any one round.

PROGRAM ADMINISTRATION

The Graduate Fellowship Program is administered by the Transportation Coordinating Council (TCC) Graduate Fellowship Committee, which evaluates applications and makes award recommendations. The Committee also oversees the implementation of the fellowship program. Fellowship recipients will be required to prepare a paper describing the transit-related work that was enabled by the fellowship. Final decisions on awards are made by the TCC/FTA Executive Committee composed of Dr. Phil Furmanski, Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs, Dr. Robert Noland and Dr. Patrick Szary. In this Fifth Round, the TCC/FTA Executive Committee anticipates the award of no more than two half-year fellowships.



BACKGROUND: Federal Transit Administration Goals and Objectives

A significant part of research at USDOT is conducted by operating administrations, such as FTA, where the specific goals and objectives of research relate to agency missions, interactions with stakeholders, and knowledge of transportation technologies and challenges. Set forth below is the current statement of FTA/USDOT Goals and Objectives.

FTA/DOT GOALS	Objectives
Organizational Excellence	1.1 Provide vision and prepare the nation for transit advancements
Organizational Excellence	1.2 Explore strategic partnerships to achieve transit research goals
Organizational Excellence	1.3 Synthesize research results to provide useful bodies of knowledge for transit industry decision makers and to shape the national transit research agenda
State of Good Repair	2.1 Identify methods to increase transit system capacity (e.g. operations planning, technology, infrastructure, vehicles, workforce, financing)
Livability	2.2 Perform research to improve the rider experience (e.g., travel time; service reliability, frequency, and quality; customer information)
State of Good Repair	3.1 Perform research to improve capital and operating efficiencies (capital, operating, and maintenance costs)
Livability	3.2 Perform research to improve transit planning and forecasting (e.g., operations, linking transportation systems, transit-oriented development and land use, solving the last mile)
Livability	3.3 Perform research to improve mobility, rural services, and services for targeted populations
Environmental Sustainability	3.4 Perform research to reduce energy consumption (in vehicles and facilities) and transit environmental impacts (e.g., alternative fuels and emissions, waste streams, recycling)
Safety	3.5 Perform research to improve safety, security, and emergency preparedness

APPLICATION PROCEDURE

The fellowship application should consist of the following:

- a. Completed background information form and research statement form, including signatures;
- b. A detailed resume;
- c. Transcripts for all colleges and graduate programs attended.
- d. Signed approval by faculty advisor

Research statements must bear a relationship to FTA/USDOT’s Goals and Objectives. Unless fellowship proposals meet this criterion, they will not be eligible for an award. Application information should be



checked for completeness and accuracy. **Applications that do not comply with the above other instructions will not be accepted.**

The Transportation Coordinating Council / Federal Transit Administration (TCC/FTA) Research Program requires five (5) copies of the application and an electronic copy on compact disc (preferably in a single PDF file). **Electronic submissions will not be accepted.** Submit the application to the Transportation Coordinating Council/Federal Transit Administration (TCC/FTA) Research Program **by 5:00 p.m. on Friday, May 13, 2011** at the following address:

TCC/FTA Graduate Fellowship Program
c/o Patrick Szary, The Center for Advanced Infrastructure and Transportation
100 Brett Road
Piscataway, NJ 08854

Questions about the program may be directed to Patrick Szary (szary@rci.rutgers.edu or 732-445-0579 ext.106) or Steve Weston of the Edward J. Bloustein School (sdweston@rci.rutgers.edu or 732-932-5475, ext.753).

EVALUATION CRITERIA FOR THE FELLOWSHIP AWARD

The following criteria will be used to evaluate fellowship applications.

EDUCATION & ELIGIBILITY
A. Educational experience and major degree area
B. Transcripts and GPA
C. Overall eligibility
EXPERIENCE (per resume)
D. Work/research experience
E. Honors and certifications
F. Activities and skills
G. Publications, patents, presented papers, and attended conferences
H. Technical and honor society memberships
RESEARCH STATEMENT
I. Student's general ability and technical expertise, ability to meet project schedule and perform project tasks, net cost
J. Relationship of topic to Federal Transit Administration (FTA) goals and objectives (see above)

the period of this proposed fellowship, generally one year from September 1 through August 31. Please attach additional pages, if needed.

Fellowship or Appointment Name

Approx. Dates (to-from)

Current program (or program admitted to): _____

School/Department: _____

Year in program: _____

Applicant's Signature _____ Date _____

Describe the proposed research topic and its relationship to the Federal Transit Administration’s Strategic Research Plan. The description should include the following section headings:

1. Research Objective(s) – This section should include a brief statement regarding the objective(s) of the proposed research.
2. Research Approach – This section should include a description of the proposed research approach and methodology (including existing or prospective data sources intended to be used);
3. Relationship to FTA Goals and Objectives – This section should describe how the proposed research relates to FTA Goals and Objectives

Attach separate sheets as needed. The research statement should be no longer than 5 pages long

Faculty Advisor’s Signature: The faculty advisor’s signature indicates that he/she has read the project description and the applicant’s proposed role in the project, approves the proposed project, and agrees to act as a mentor to the student in relation to the project.

Faculty Advisor’s Signature _____ Date _____