

## **Graduate Fellowships for Outstanding Research Promise in Science and Mathematics**

### ***Suggested Guidelines for Letters of Recommendations (Lo Rs)***

The Graduate Fellowships for Outstanding Research Promise in Science and Mathematics are prestigious and highly competitive. The continued development of outstanding research promise of the applicant depends, to a large extent, on the guidance, encouragement, and mentoring provided by the faculty advisor and committee. The recommendation letters in support of the student and the proposed research are important factors in the selection process. Failure to include all of the requested information could limit the student's chances of being awarded a Fellowship.

These LoRs should be specifically tailored for this fellowship (i.e., not generic recommendations). In particular, the LoR should focus candidly on the research qualities, abilities, and promise of the applicant, who has been instructed to give LoR writers a copy of the research proposal (a major consideration for these awards), CV, and transcript.

Two letters are required. Each should be no longer than 2 pages (2.5 cm margins, 11–12 point fonts). One must be from the student's MS thesis advisor. The faculty advisor in particular should describe how he or she plans to mentor the applicant in the development of his or her ability to design and execute the research project with increasing independence, confidence, and competence. The MS thesis advisor should also state to what degree the research proposal was developed independently by the student. The second letter can be from another CSUN faculty member, a committee member or faculty mentor from another institution, or a professional scientist or mathematician who can address the applicant's promise in research.