

Festa Graduate Leadership Fellowships

Sponsor:

The Festa Graduate Leadership Fellowships are supported by Fred Festa, a SUNY Oswego graduate in Business Administration from the class of 1981.

Purpose:

The purpose of the Festa Fellowship is to provide a unique, professional leadership experience in a field of interest chosen by the graduate students selected for the awards. The Festa Fellowships will provide stipends of up to \$10,000 to support outstanding graduate students who wish to pursue advanced leadership experiences in their fields, by, for example, shadowing a corporate CEO or other organizational leader, by working on a public policy issue with a legislator or public official, or by developing a significant project for a non-profit organization. These fellowships are not designed to be traditional internship experiences; they are intended to give the recipient exceptional and unique leadership experiences.

The Festa Fellowships will offer qualified Oswego graduate students a special opportunity to model effective leadership styles and practices in a variety of organizations and settings. According to Bill George, a prominent leadership expert at Harvard Business School, truly authentic leaders demonstrate the following traits: pursuing their purpose with passion, practicing solid values, leading with their hearts as well as their heads, establishing connected relationships, and demonstrating self-discipline. The major goal of this fellowship program is to provide a mentored experience that will help the recipients advance to leadership positions in their chosen field.

Qualifications:

The Festa Graduate Leadership Fellowship Program will seek accomplished, motivated individuals who are eager to prepare themselves for greater leadership responsibilities within their communities and professions. Applicants will propose self-designed learning experiences to help them attain leadership goals they have set for themselves. The program will expand fellows' experiences to new learning environments that would be inaccessible without a fellowship.

Advanced graduate students matriculated in any graduate degree program offered at SUNY Oswego will be eligible to apply for the Festa Graduate Leadership Fellowship. The fellowships will be competitive and superior graduate students will be encouraged to apply.

Fellowship Period:

The normal period for a graduate student to receive a Festa Fellowship will be one semester or a full summer session. Normally the fellowship recipient will not be enrolled in other graduate coursework during the fellowship period, and the fellowship recipient will be expected to dedicate themselves full-time to their fellowship during the award period.

Fellowship Stipend:

The fellowship award may be from \$5,000 to \$10,000, depending on the scope and merit of the graduate student's proposal. Fellowship stipends will be commensurate with the length of the program of study and the related expenses justified in the proposal budget.

A fellowship recipient may be eligible to receive some credit for the fellowship experience at the discretion of the graduate program in which they are matriculated, but credit is not the primary purpose of the fellowship program.

Application Process:

Graduate students wishing to apply for the Festa Fellowships should develop a plan of study approved by the organizational leader with whom they wish to work and by their graduate program director. The applicant must also include a brief 500-word essay explaining what leadership experiences the applicant hopes to gain from the proposed fellowship and how the experience will help to advance their future career goals. Each applicant must also provide at least two other letters of recommendation specifically addressing their candidacy for the Festa Fellowship. The proposal must provide a budget justifying the amount of the fellowship stipend up to \$10,000 for the period of the fellowship.

Fellowship Budget Proposal:

The goals of the Festa Leadership Fellowship assume that the award recipient may need to relocate for the semester or summer term of the fellowship, so living expenses may be justified in the application. The amount of the stipend will take into account the appropriate expenses necessitated by the fellowship.

Review Process:

All Festa Fellowship applications will be reviewed by a committee of the SUNY Oswego Graduate Program Directors who will rank the proposals and forward the recommendations to the Dean of Graduate Studies who will make the final decision about fellowship award recipients.

Festa Fellowship Reports:

All Festa Fellows will provide a final written report on their leadership experiences to the dean and their graduate program director to be shared with program faculty and other graduate students. Fellowship recipients will also be expected to make a presentation at a departmental symposium, an appropriate professional conference, or at the annual Quest Symposium. The presentation will focus on their learning experiences as a Festa Fellow. Normally a report will also be featured in Campus Update and the Oswego Alumni magazine and a summary report will be given to Mr. Festa.

Application Deadline:

Application materials will be obtained from the SUNY Oswego Graduate Office. All fellowship applications must be submitted to the Dean of Graduate Studies and Research, 602 Culkin Hall, SUNY Oswego, Oswego, NY 13126 by February 15th each year to be considered for a fellowship during the following summer or the next academic year.

Contact Information:

For more information on the Festa Graduate Leadership Fellowship, contact Dr. David King, Dean of Graduate Studies and Research at 315-312-3692 or gradoff@oswego.edu.

DWK:pm

GUIDELINES FOR FESTA GRADUATE LEADERSHIP FELLOWSHIP APPLICANTS AND MENTORS

IDENTIFYING A MENTOR

Students interested in applying for the Festa Fellowship should contact the Director of their graduate program to seek assistance in identifying potential site placements and mentors.

INTERVIEW PROCESS

All Festa applicants must be interviewed by their potential leadership mentor as part of the application process. Unlike a traditional internship, there must be an agreement by the graduate student and the site mentor about the student's responsibilities at the site and that the student is an appropriate person for the placement. The applicant must obtain written support from the potential mentor for their candidacy in the fellowship placement. The approval from the potential mentor can be sent to the Graduate Dean by email, letter or included with the application.

JOB RESPONSIBILITIES

The student, graduate advisor and the Festa site mentor should collaborate in defining the Festa Fellow's placement responsibilities or project(s). All should agree that the placement assignment has appropriate expectations.

FELLOWSHIP TIME COMMITMENT

The guidelines for the fellowship assume that the selected Festa Fellows will work at the Fellowship assignment on a full-time basis. However, the number of hours and the location of the assigned work can be flexible and negotiated by the student and the site mentor.

EVALUATION AND ACCOUNTABILITY

Festa Fellows are required to keep a journal in which they record and reflect on their experiences during the fellowship assignment. Each Fellow must also prepare a 8-10 page final report on their fellowship experience that will be part of the permanent record for each fellow. The site mentor will also be asked to prepare an evaluation of each fellow and his/her performance. The Festa mentor should send that evaluation report directly to the Dean of Graduate Studies at SUNY Oswego.

MONITORING PERFORMANCE AND SITE VISITS

The Festa Fellow's Graduate Program Director will monitor the graduate student's performance in the fellowship placement via email, telephone conversation with the mentor or perhaps through site visits where feasible.

CREDIT OR NON-CREDIT

The Festa Fellowship may be for credit or non-credit depending on the preference of the particular graduate program and the fellow. If credit is assigned (1-6 credits), it will appear on the student's transcript and should normally be assigned an S or U grade, unless the department prefers a letter grade. A Festa Fellow should not be taking more than one other course during the period of the fellowship.

LIST OF POTENTIAL MENTORS

Over time we hope to develop a list of potential mentors from a wide variety of possible placements for Festa Leadership Fellows. The list will be available from the Dean of Graduate Studies Office. Students are also encouraged to work with their graduate advisors and other contacts to identify potential Festa mentors and placements. The fellowship placement and mentor must be identified as part of the student's fellowship application.

FELLOWSHIP FUNDING

The expenditure budget presented by each Festa applicant must be realistic and will be evaluated during the application review process. Therefore, the successful student applicant may not receive the full amount of award that was requested on their application.

CRITERIA USED IN EVALUATING FESTA FELLOWSHIP APPLICATIONS

The Fellowship process is competitive, so no student, advisor or mentor should assume that an application will be successful. The application process is simply intended to assure that the applicant has a viable placement proposal endorsed by their advisor or graduate program director, as well as the potential site mentor. Following the review of applications, the graduate student will be notified about the decision on their application.

INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

International student applicants for the Festa Fellowship need to address some additional issues related to their visa status and credits needed to demonstrate full-time enrollment. The fellowship placement also needs to be supported as a critical part of the student's

program of study. Consult with your own Graduate Program Director and Mr. Gerry Oliver in the International Education Office, 201 Culkin Hall or by phone 315/312-5775 to discuss what is necessary to preserve your visa status.

4/07

RESPONSIBILITIES OF FESTA FELLOWSHIP MENTORS

The Festa Graduate Leadership Fellowships would not be possible without the generous support of the organizational leaders who are willing to serve as mentors for Festa Fellows. All Festa applicants are required to schedule an interview with potential fellowship mentors. The applicant must present a current resume. Mentors may choose to offer or withdraw fellowship placements at their discretion and convenience. The mentor who agrees to supervise a Festa Fellow has wide latitude in designing projects or responsibilities that will enhance the fellow's leadership skills and experiences. A brief job description should be included with the application. The main purpose of the fellowship is to provide the fellowship recipient with significant experiences in the organization related to leadership issues and responsibilities broadly defined.

Mentors are also asked to provide the SUNY Oswego Dean of Graduate Studies with a brief written explanation of the Festa Fellow's performance at the end of the fellowship placement. Similarly, any questions or problems associated with the fellow or the fellowship program should be directed to the Dean of Graduate Studies, 610 Culkin Hall, SUNY Oswego, Oswego, NY 13126, or 315-312-3692 or email at dking@oswego.edu.

Festa Graduate Leadership Fellowship Application

Qualifications: The Festa Graduate Leadership Fellowship Program will seek accomplished, motivated individuals who are eager to prepare themselves for greater leadership responsibilities within their communities and professions. Applicants will propose self-designed learning experiences to help them attain leadership goals they have set for themselves. The program will expand fellows' experiences to new learning environments that would be inaccessible without a fellowship.

Student Contact Information:

Mr. Ms. _____

Address: _____

Email Address: _____

Phone Number: Area Code () _____

Student ID: _____ Date of Birth: _____

Major Program: _____

Graduate Advisor: _____

Applicant Must Submit:

Information on Festa Fellowship Mentor/Supervisor:

Mentor's Name: _____

Company or Organization: _____

Address: _____

Telephone Number: _____

Email Address: _____

Time period requested for Festa Fellowship:

- Summer** _____
- Fall** _____
- Spring** _____

Resume: The candidate's current resume should be included with the fellowship application and a copy should also be sent to the potential fellowship mentor/supervisor along with information about the Festa Fellowship program. All information can be obtained from the SUNY Oswego Graduate Office.

Required Interview: Festa Fellowship applicants must schedule an interview with the potential mentor/site supervisor as part of the application process. The mentor should provide written confirmation that the candidate is acceptable for the fellowship placement and confirm the nature of the candidate's responsibilities during the period of the fellowship.

Brief 500-word essay: Explain what leadership experiences you hope to gain from the proposed fellowship and how the experience will help to advance your future career goals.

Two letters of recommendation: Specifically addressing your candidacy for the Festa Fellowship

Plan of Study: Include information detailing your plan of study such as a proposal, goals, activities and duties and other related information (must be approved by your potential mentor and graduate program director)

Budget Proposal: Must show a line item budget justifying the amount of the stipend for the period of the fellowship, including housing, transportation, and other living expenses

Deadline: February 15th for the following summer, fall or spring semester

For more information contact: Dr. David King, Dean of Graduate Studies and Research at 315-312-3692 or gradoff@oswego.edu