

# Application for the 2018-2019 McNair Scholars Cohort

University of Washington  
Office of Minority Affairs and Diversity

**Due Date:** 5:00 pm Friday, February 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2018  
(A physical copy of the application must be turned in to the McNair office)

## **Application Timeline:**

- February 2, 2018 by 5:00 pm: Application due date.
- February 19 – 23: 2<sup>nd</sup> Round Interviews selected applicants.
- Early March: Final selections will be announced.

## **McNair Scholars Program**

The Ronald E. McNair TRIO Program is federally funded by the Department of Education to prepare low-income, first generation undergraduates and undergraduates from underrepresented groups for doctoral study through involvement in research and scholarly activities. The Department of Education's web page provides more [information at http://www.ed.gov/programs/triomcnair/index.html](http://www.ed.gov/programs/triomcnair/index.html).

## **Program Benefits**

The program offers a challenging and supportive environment that is conducive to learning and personal and professional development. As a McNair Scholar, you will receive:

- The support of McNair Program Advisors
- Research opportunities
- Opportunity to receive research stipends and travel allowances
- Faculty mentoring
- Workshops on the graduate school application process
- Assistance in locating graduate schools
- Access to standardized test preparation software
- Access to tutoring and the OMA&D Instructional Center
- Assistance in locating and applying to research internships
- Assistance in locating funding/financial aid resources
- Opportunities for participation in research conferences



# University of Washington

## Ronald E. McNair Post-Baccalaureate Achievement Program

### **Participant Eligibility**

To be eligible for acceptance into the McNair Program, you must be:

1. currently enrolled as an undergraduate in a degree program at the University of Washington.
2. Must be a U.S. citizen or permanent resident
3. Must be a low-income student who is also a first-generation college student (neither parent or legal guardian has a Bachelor's degree)

-or-

Must be a member of a group that is underrepresented in graduate education (African American, American Indian/Alaskan Native, Hispanic/Latino or Native Hawaiian /Pacific Islander)

4. Must have completed at least 36 credits by the time of initial entry into the program
5. Must have at least one year remaining before graduation (i.e., if you are graduating within the year, you are not eligible for the program)
6. Must have a minimum cumulative GPA of: 2.8 (sophomores), 3.0 (juniors), 3.2 (seniors)
7. Must express STRONG desire to attain a Ph.D.

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### **Application Checklist**

A complete application packet includes the following items:

1. Completed application form (Fill out and Sign the Application Form. Use Adobe Reader to fill out the form prior to printing.).
2. Resume / Curriculum vitae (CV)
3. Statement of purpose (See page 3).
4. Letters of recommendation (See page 4).
5. Unofficial copy(ies) of college transcript(s) (See page 4).
6. A copy of your financial aid award letter (See page 4).
7. 2016 income tax return (See page 4).
8. A writing sample of at least two pages that was completed within the last year (e.g., a paper from a course).

## Application Essay: Statement of Purpose

### **Instructions:**

Please write a single essay addressing the following topics and attach it to your application. Please limit your statement to a maximum of two pages, with double spacing, 1-inch margins and using 11 or 12 pt font (Times New Roman or Arial).

### **Essay Prompt:**

#### **1) Personal background**

- Please describe your family and educational background.
- Describe any financial, familial, or personal responsibilities that you may have that will require your attention during the next couple of years? (This is in addition to regular academic work.)

#### **2) Academic interests**

- What research topics, fields or departments do you find most interesting?
- Please describe your research experiences, if any.
- Discuss your academic interests and plans (major(s), minor(s) etc.). Talk about what you enjoy and hope to learn from this field.
- What Ph.D. program (major) do you intend to pursue?
- Are you interested in a career in academia (i.e., as a professor at a college or university)? What do you hope to gain from and contribute to academia?

#### **3) Community involvement**

- What extracurricular activities do you participate in?
- Describe your volunteer activities or ways in which you "give back" to your community.
- In what ways do you see yourself as a role model for, or in what ways do you hope to become a role model in the future?

#### **4) Impact of the McNair program**

- Discuss how the McNair program can help you attain your goals.
- Discuss how you see yourself contributing to the McNair/TRIO community.

University of Washington  
Ronald E. McNair Post-Baccalaureate Achievement Program

## Instructions for Submitting Letters of Recommendation

### 1) Current University of Washington First or Second year students:

Provide one letter of recommendation from a professor, lecturer, instructor, or teaching assistant. An additional letter, which can include academic advisors, is encouraged, but not required.

### 2) Transfer Students:

Provide two letters of recommendation from individuals who are familiar with your academic record, ability and goals. We encourage you to get at least one from a UW faculty member, lecturer, instructor, teaching assistant or academic advisor.

### 3) Current Third or Fourth year students:

Provide two letters of recommendation, one of which must be from a UW faculty member with an earned Ph.D. We encourage you to get an additional letter from a UW faculty, but letters from a lecturer, instructor, teaching assistant, or undergraduate advisor are also acceptable.

## Directions for Electronic Submission of your Letter(s) of Recommendation

1. Contact your letter writers, letting them that you will be applying to the McNair program (remember to provide your writers with plenty of time to write you a strong letter.)
2. Provide the UW McNair program with the name, email, title and department of your letter writer(s) via email. ([uwmcnair@uw.edu](mailto:uwmcnair@uw.edu)). In your subject line write: Reference Submission for (your name).
3. We will send your letter writer an email with the instructions for writing and uploading an electronic copy. We will send out your email within 24 hours (M-Th) of receipt of your email, so make sure you provide us with the name(s) and email(s) as soon as you are starting your application.

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## Instructions for Submitting Financial Information

In order to meet Federal Department of Education TRIO requirements, we must collect recent tax information from either your parents or guardian if you are considered a dependent, or your own tax information if you are considered self-supporting.

For your application to be considered complete, please submit the following documents.

- 1) A copy of the 2016 Federal Tax Return. It is not necessary to submit the entire document. Only include the pages that contain the name(s) and addresses of the filers and the page(s) that include the Taxable Income and signatures. Usually, this is the first 2-pages of the document that is submitted to the IRS.
- 2) A copy of your most recent financial aid award letter.

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## Instructions for Submitting Transcripts

- 1) Submit unofficial transcripts from all of the school you have attended.
- 2) If schools charge for transcripts, let the UW McNair program know and only submit UW transcripts.

**RONALD E. McNAIR POSTBACCALAUREATE  
ACHIEVEMENT PROGRAM**

Application submission deadline February 2, 2018 by 5:00pm:  
(*We are not able to accept electronic submission.*)

**Please mail or drop off application packet to:**

Ronald E. McNair Program  
University of Washington Box 352803  
171 Mary Gates Hall  
Seattle, WA 98195-2803



**COMPLETE APPLICATION PACKET INCLUDES:**

- 1) The Application Form
- 2) Resume / Curriculum vitae
- 3) Statement of Purpose
- 4) Electronic Submission of Letters of Recommendation
- 5) Transcripts(s)
- 6) Writing Sample
- 7) Financial Aid Award Letter
- 8) A copy of your Parent's 2016 Federal Tax Return
  - The copy must include a copy of the Signature page and include the calculation of Taxable Income. This is generally only the first 2 pages of the standard Federal tax returns.
  - If you are "self-supporting" or "independent" as determined by the Office of Financial Aid include your personal Tax Return.