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Klydi Heywood

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# Huntsman Alumnus Receives NSF Graduate Research Fellowship

By Klydi Heywood



Chris Martin, BA in Economics and Finance, '11, MS in Economics, '13, was recently awarded the 2014 [National Science Foundation's Graduate Research Fellowship](#). This year there were more than 14,000 applications submitted and only 2,000 were offered the fellowship. Martin will benefit from a three-year annual stipend of \$32,000 along with a \$12,000 cost of education allowance for tuition and fees, opportunities for international research and professional development, and the freedom to conduct his own research at any accredited U.S. institution of graduate education. Martin is currently in the PhD program at the University of Washington.

"Receiving the Fellowship was both a tremendous honor and tremendously unexpected. I would not have even applied if it hadn't been for the support, encouragement, and feedback I received from professors at the Huntsman School," Martin said. "I am particularly indebted to Chris Fawson and Randy Simmons who have provided advice and mentorship throughout both my Undergraduate and Master's coursework at the Huntsman School. In the first year of my PhD program, I have been impressed by how remarkable the environment is at USU in terms of faculty engagement - when I think about professors who engaged directly with me and encouraged my development as a student, a half-dozen come to mind immediately and the list grows quickly."

The NSF Graduate Research Fellowship attracts the most talented students in the country to compete for what is considered by many to be the most prestigious fellowship a graduate student can receive in support of their graduate studies, explained Dr. Chris Fawson, professor of economics and finance at the Huntsman School. He went on to explain that NSF Graduate fellowship recipients are recognized not only for their extraordinary academic accomplishment, but also for their demonstrated capacity and commitment to advance the human condition through the broader impact of their research.

"Having one of our students selected as a recipient of the prestigious NSF Graduate Research Fellowship affirms the Huntsman School vision to prepare our students for 'leadership roles in the organizations and communities where they

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choose to serve,” Dr. Fawson said. “It brings great honor to the Huntsman School and the Department of Economics and Finance to have Chris Martin selected as a 2014 NSF Graduate Fellowship recipient.”