



FORTÉ FELLOWSHIP AWARD GUIDELINES

OVERVIEW

Founded in 2002 after the "Women and the MBA: Gateway to Opportunity," study, Forté has empowered over 115,000 women to pursue meaningful careers by providing access to business education, professional development, and a network of accomplished women. While we've made significant gains in the representation of women in business schools and in business leadership, we have not achieved equal representation. We will continue to inspire the next generation of women business leaders through our programs, conferences, tools, and resources. Everyone is invited to participate in our mission — we need allies to help us achieve our goals.

To advance its mission and help reduce barriers women face on their journey to an MBA, Forté offers targeted financial assistance through the Forté Fellowship. We created the Forté Fellowship to remove a significant barrier to women pursuing business education — the cost and subsequent debt burden. Today, our goal is to create support for gender equity in business schools. This requires fostering inclusive cultures through allyship. The individuals who receive a Forté Fellowship should demonstrate commitment to our mission and actively support equitable and inclusive cultures on campus.

Forté offers many resources unique to Fellows. In addition to the financial support provided through Fellowships awarded by Forté partner schools, fellows gain exposure to leading companies and an immediate network of peers that extends beyond individual business schools.

learn more

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GUIDELINES FOR SELECTION

As part of the Forté partnership agreement, all MBA school partners must award a minimum of two Forté Fellowships at or near \$20,000 (USD) each per academic year.

- Schools can designate additional Forté Fellows equal to or less than the number of full awards given. The minimum scholarship for “additional” awards is \$10,000 (USD).
- Schools may award the Forté Fellowship designation to admitted students receiving need based scholarships and/or other named scholarships (Consortium, Toigo, specific company, military, etc.).
 - For example, an admitted student may be designated (no monetary award attached) a Forté Fellow as long as the student has also received the full Consortium Fellowship to your MBA program.
- Forté will review and consider special requests for exceptions to these policies when the minimum scholarship amount exceeds half of the school’s annual tuition (i.e. part-time, online programs.)
- A Forté Fellowship is non-transferable and does not follow the admitted student if they matriculate to a school other than the one awarding the Fellowship.

FORTÉ FELLOWSHIP CRITERIA

While Forté partner schools are responsible for selecting and awarding the Forté Fellowship, Forté asks that the following qualifications be considered as part of your campus’ criteria:

- Exhibit exemplary leadership in one or more of the following: academic leadership, team leadership, community leadership, and creative leadership
- Represent a range of personal, educational, and professional backgrounds as well as varied career goals.
- MBA degree candidate at a Forté partner school (full-time, part-time, executive programs, dual degree, or online programs.)
- Demonstrate a commitment to Forté’s mission of launching women into fulfilling, significant careers through access to business education, opportunities, and a community of successful women.
- Additional requirements may be set by individual schools (for example, alignment with school’s mission or core values).

FORTÉ FELLOW EXPECTATIONS

Forté Fellows are expected to further the mission of Forté on campus and engage in Forté pipeline initiatives. Here are a few examples of campus opportunities:

- Membership in and leadership of your MBA program's clubs and organizations dedicated to advancing women in business, including representation within the Women in Business Club and/or Men as Allies Club.
- Serve as a Forté Ambassador and amplify the voices of others and engage classmates in the mission of Forté.
- Collaborate with the Admissions Office to recruit more women MBA students.
- Participation in Forté MBA programming throughout the year
- Participate in Forté's college/pre-MBA initiatives

FORTÉ FELLOW BENEFITS

The Forté Fellowship provides financial support to exceptional students pursuing an MBA at your school - and includes unique opportunities from Forté. Fellows should expect to receive emails from Forté about opportunities, resources, and events. Forté Fellows gain access and exposure to leading companies and join a network of peers in leading business schools across the United States, Canada, and Europe.

Additional benefits include:

- Free professional resources, leadership webinars, and workshops.
- Access to the Forté Access Network, an online networking community for Forté Fellows and Fellow alumni.
- Access to the network-building Forté Fellow LinkedIn group
- Inclusion in the annual Forté Fellow corporate partner resume book
- Special invitations for job openings and leadership programs at Forté partner companies.

AWARD TIMELINE

The award and designation of the Forté Fellowship to 2025 MBA admits may begin after Nov. 1, 2024. Please email your list of awardees to fellows@fortefoundation.org using the official Forté Fellow Submission Template. A complete, final list of Forté Fellows is due on or before September 15, 2025.