

2015 - 2016 Society of Actuaries' James C. Hickman Scholars Named

Fifteen stipends awarded to SOA Hickman Scholars

The Society of Actuaries (SOA) congratulates this year's five new SOA James C. Hickman Scholars. Each recipient will receive a \$20,000 stipend for the 2015-16 academic year. The recipients were chosen from a significant number of highly qualified applicants currently in (or applying to) actuarial science (or a related field) doctoral programs in the U.S. or Canada. Recipients have made good progress toward, or have already attained, an actuarial credential.

The 2015 – 16 SOA Hickman Scholars are:

1. Ahmed Mohamed Abdelrahman Ahmed, ASA (University of Chicago)
2. James Risk (University of California, Santa Barbara)
3. Mingyu Fang, FSA, ACIA (University of Waterloo)
4. Jingong Zhang (University of Waterloo)
5. Kenneth Zhou (University of Waterloo)

In addition, one 2011-12, two 2012-13, three 2013-14 and four 2014-15 SOA Hickman Scholars had their \$20,000 stipends renewed for the 2015-16 academic year:

1. Mingbin (Ben) Feng, ASA (Northwestern University)
2. Philippe Gagnon, ASA (Université de Montréal)
3. Mirabelle Huynh (University of Waterloo)
4. Stephen Szaure, ASA (University of Toronto)
5. Shengzhe (Thomas) Tang, ASA, CERA (University of Toronto)
6. Huan Zhang (University of Iowa)
7. Jean-François Bégin (HEC Montréal)
8. Viet Nguyen, ASA (University of Nebraska)
9. Douglas Bujakowski (University of Wisconsin – Madison)
10. Di Xu (University of Waterloo)

The Board of Directors established the [Society of Actuaries James C. Hickman Scholar program](#) (formerly known as the Doctoral Stipend program) to increase the number of academic actuaries who hold a Ph.D. and an actuarial designation; and who intend to pursue academic careers in the United States or Canada. The program provides stipends to doctoral candidates who will, through their studies and careers, address research and education needs of the profession.

The SOA Board of Directors named its doctoral stipend program to honor [James C. Hickman, FSA \(deceased\)](#), former dean of the University of Wisconsin – Madison School of Business. More than a 40-year academic career, Hickman made numerous contributions to teaching, research and scholarship, including co-authorship of the *Actuarial Mathematics* textbook. He also served the profession, including as a member of the SOA Board of Governors and trustee of the Actuarial Foundation.