



Office of Graduate Fellowships

Fellowship Opportunities for:

Dissertation Completion / Write-Up

About Dissertation Completion Fellowships

Dissertation completion fellowships provide support to Ph.D. students during the final year of dissertation writing, defense, and submission. These awards typically consist of a stipend to allow the student to devote him/herself full time to writing during the final months of the dissertation process. This type of fellowship opportunity is available across a wide range of fields, though it is somewhat more common in the humanities and social sciences.

A subcategory of these awards is “residential” dissertation fellowships, where the fellow spends the dissertation year in residence at a host institution (usually a college or university) and may be expected to teach a class while completing the dissertation. Residential dissertation completion fellowships are often intended to recruit individuals who are members of underrepresented groups – though how this is defined can vary widely from one competition to the next.

A few points to be aware of regarding dissertation completion fellowships:

- These competitions normally only consider candidate who are already at an advanced stage of the dissertation process and who can demonstrate that they are on track to defend the dissertation during the fellowship year. Applicants should be advanced to candidacy with an approved dissertation proposal. Review committees will expect to see that the research / data collection phase of the work is complete (or nearing completion) and that writing has begun.
- Most application deadlines fall between October-January for funding in the subsequent academic year, and applications may take weeks or even months to complete. Students must plan to apply during the academic year preceding their final year in the PhD program. Fellowships of this type almost always adhere to the traditional fall-spring academic calendar, and students seeking them should expect to align their completion timeline to match.
- The intention of these programs is to free the student of teaching and other work obligations and enable them to give their undivided focus to the dissertation. For this reason, fellowships of this type usually do NOT permit the student to hold other employment, either inside or outside the university, during the tenure of the award.

The following list is not comprehensive, and students are encouraged to use the search tools available at the Graduate Fellowships web site (<http://gradfellows.gmu.edu/search/>) and to consult with faculty members and professional organizations focused on their field of interest.

AAUW American Fellowships

<http://www.aauw.org/what-we-do/educational-funding-and-awards/american-fellowships/>

AAUW American Fellowships support women scholars in all fields completing doctoral dissertations. Dissertation fellowships are currently set at \$20,000 for the academic year. Postdoctoral fellowships of \$30,000 are also available. Candidates are evaluated on the basis of scholarly excellence; quality and originality of project design; and active commitment to helping women and girls through service in their communities, professions, or fields of research. Open to women who are U.S. citizens or permanent residents. Deadline: November. Note that AAUW also offers a fellowship for women international students that is not specifically a “dissertation completion” fellowship, but can potentially be used as such.

AERA Dissertation Grants

<http://www.aera.net/ProfessionalOpportunitiesFunding/FundingOpportunities/AERAGrantsProgram/DissertationGrants/tabid/12812/Default.aspx>

AERA supports doctoral students writing dissertations focusing on U.S. education issues using quantitative data from the large-scale, national and international data sets supported by the National Center for Education Statistics (NCES), National Science Foundation (NSF), and other federal agencies, and have U.S. education policy relevance. Applications are encouraged from a variety of disciplines such as, but not limited to, education, sociology, economics, psychology, demography, statistics, and psychometrics. Other topics of interest include policies and practices related to student achievement in STEM, contextual factors in education, educational participation and persistence (kindergarten through graduate school), early childhood education, and postsecondary education. If international data sets are used, the study must include U.S. education. The grant is for one year, stipend of up to \$20,000. No citizenship restrictions. Deadline: January

AERA Minority Dissertation Fellowship Program in Education Research

<http://www.aera.net/ProfessionalOpportunitiesFunding/AERAFundingOpportunities/tabid/10241/Default.aspx>

AERA offers doctoral fellowships of \$20,000 to enhance the competitiveness of outstanding minority scholars for academic appointments at major research universities by supporting their conducting education research and by providing mentoring and guidance toward completion of their doctoral studies. This program is open to U.S. citizens and permanent residents who are members of racial and ethnic groups historically underrepresented in higher education (e.g., African Americans, Alaskan Natives, American Indians, Asian Americans, Hispanics or Latinos, and Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islanders).

Association for Jewish Studies (AJS) Dissertation Completion Fellowship

<http://www.ajsnet.org/ajs-dissertation-fellowship.htm>

Fellowships support the timely completion of doctorates by graduate students in the field of Jewish Studies. The fellowship is for one year, stipend is \$20,000. No citizenship restrictions. A unique feature of the program will be its public engagement component. Each fellow will be asked to give one public lecture or workshop at the end of their fellowship year in which they will share their research with a general audience.

Application deadline: March.

Center for Engaged Scholarship (CES) Dissertation Completion Fellowship for Social Scientists

<http://cescholar.org/dissertation-fellowships/>

Fellowships are for doctoral students in the social sciences whose work will contribute to progressive social change, and who will contribute the CES mission making the United States a more democratic, egalitarian, and environmentally sustainable society. The fellowship is for one year, stipend of \$25,000. May be in the fields of anthropology, economics, geography, history, political science, social psychology, sociology, or similar. Work inspired by these disciplines carried out in interdisciplinary programs such as ethnic studies, women's studies, or American studies is also accepted. No citizenship restrictions. Application deadline: January.

Charlotte W. Newcombe Doctoral Dissertation Fellowships

<http://woodrow.org/fellowships/newcombe/>

The Newcombe Fellowship is a dissertation completion award designed to support original and significant study of ethical or religious values. It is open to students in all fields of the humanities and social sciences. In addition to topics in religious studies or ethics, topics such as the ethical implications of foreign policy, the values influencing political decisions, the moral codes of other cultures, or religious and ethical issues reflected in history, art, or literature are welcome. Approximately 20 awards of \$25,000 (plus remission of tuition/fees) are made per year for twelve months of full-time dissertation writing. No citizenship requirements. Deadline: November.

Ford Foundation Fellowship Program: Dissertation Fellowships

<http://sites.nationalacademies.org/pga/fordfellowships/index.htm>

The Ford Foundation Fellowship Program aims to promote diversity in higher education by funding candidates who intend to pursue an academic career and: (a) Who belong to an under-represented minority, including Alaska Natives, Black/African Americans, Mexican Americans, Native American Indians, Native Pacific Islanders, and Puerto Ricans AND/OR (b) Whose research and career aims demonstrate a likelihood of using the diversity of human experience as an educational resource in teaching and scholarship. The program is open to most fields of study (some practice-oriented fields are ineligible; see web site for complete list.) U.S. citizens, permanent residents, and DACA-eligible individuals may apply. Three types of fellowship are offered, including a dissertation completion fellowship. Deadline: November.

Harry Frank Guggenheim Foundation Dissertation Fellowships

<http://www.hfg.org/df/guidelines.htm>

Dissertation completion award of \$20,000 for candidates entering the final year of their Ph.D. program. The HFG Foundation supports research pertaining to violence and aggression in relation to social change, intergroup conflict, war, terrorism, crime, and family relationships, among other subjects. Field / discipline is open, but dissertations with no relevance to understanding human violence and aggression will not be supported. No citizenship restrictions. Deadline: February 1.

Jennings Randolph Peace Scholarship Dissertation Program

<http://www.usip.org/fellows/scholars.html>

Open to students enrolled in US universities who are researching and/or writing doctoral dissertations on topics related to peace, conflict, conflict resolution, and international security. Proposals from all disciplines are welcomed, with preference given to research that shows clear relevance to policy issues. The award is currently set at \$20,000 for ten months. No citizenship restrictions. Deadline: December.

Joseph L. Fisher Doctoral Dissertation Fellowships (Resources for the Future)

<http://www.rff.org/fellowships/fisher>

Supports the final year of doctoral dissertation research/writing for research on issues related to the environment, natural resources, or energy. Proposals in economics and social sciences are the primary target, although proposals from the sciences with obvious relevance for environmental policy matters will also receive consideration. Stipend is \$18,000. Open to both U.S. citizens and non-U.S. citizens, provided the latter have proper work/residency documentation. Deadline: February.

Josephine de Karman Dissertation Fellowships

<http://www.dekarman.org/>

Dissertation completion fellowship for the final year in the Ph.D. program. Open to students in any discipline without citizenship restrictions. Special consideration will be given to applicants in the humanities, though awards are made in a range of disciplines. Approximately eight awards of \$22,000 each per year. Deadline: January.

Mellon / ACLS Dissertation Completion Fellowships

<http://www.acls.org/programs/dcf/>

The ACLS/Mellon fellowships support advanced graduate students in the humanities and related social sciences during the final year of Ph.D. dissertation writing. The program encourages timely completion of the Ph.D. Applicants must be prepared to complete their dissertations within the one-year fellowship period. Approximately 65 fellowships of \$30,000 (plus other funds to support research and educational costs) are awarded annually. No citizenship restrictions. Applicants must NOT have progressed further than the 6th year or the doctoral program. Deadline: October.

National Academy of Education / Spencer Dissertation Fellowship

http://www.naeducation.org/naed_080200.htm

Dissertation completion fellowships of \$27,500 for research in any discipline relevant to the improvement of education, with emphasis on research that brings fresh and constructive perspectives to the history, theory, or practice of formal or informal education anywhere in the world. Open to all disciplines (not just Education!) with no citizenship restrictions. Up to 35 fellowships are awarded annually. Deadline: Early October.

National Institute of Justice (NIJ) Graduate Fellowship Program

<http://nij.gov/funding/fellowships/graduate-research-fellowship/Pages/welcome.aspx>

The NIJ Graduate Research Fellowship (GRF) program supports doctoral students engaged in research that NIJ's mission to increase the pool of scholars engaged in research that addresses the challenges of crime and justice in the United States, particularly at the state and local levels. The program has two tracks: (1) Social/Behavioral Science and (2) STEM. Requirements and deadlines vary for each track. See the web site for details. New solicitations for both programs are typically published in fall or early winter each year. Maximum award is \$32,000 in Social Science track, \$35,000 in STEM track, and may be used to cover a range of expenses, including both direct research costs and stipendary / salary support. No citizenship restrictions.

Robert H. N. Ho Family Foundation Dissertation Fellowships Program in Buddhist Studies (ACLS)

<http://www.acls.org/programs/buddhist-studies/#diss>

The Robert H. N. Ho Family Foundation Dissertation Fellowship Program in Buddhist Studies will provide one-year stipends of \$30,000 for PhD candidates to devote full time to preparing dissertations. The fellowship period may be used for fieldwork, archival research, analysis of findings, or for writing after research is complete. Postdoctoral fellowships are also offered. Deadline: November.

Smith Richardson World Politics and Statecraft Fellowship

<https://www.srf.org/programs/world-politics-statecraft-fellowship/>

Supports research and writing of policy-relevant dissertations on American foreign policy, international relations, international security, strategic studies, area studies, and diplomatic and military history. Funds can be used toward dissertation research (including fieldwork, archival research, or language training) and writing. Preference will be given to projects that have the potential to directly inform U.S. policy debates and thinking, rather than purely theoretical or scholarly debates. The foundation awards up to 20 grants of \$7,500 each year. Deadline: October.

SREB-State Doctoral Scholars Program (Southern Regional Education Board)

http://www.sreb.org/page/1074/doctoral_scholars.html

SREB is a regional award open to minority Ph.D. students at eligible universities, including George Mason University. Two types of fellowship are offered: The Doctoral Award supports new Ph.D. students (applying for admission or in their first year of Ph.D. program) for 3-5 years of doctoral program study. The Dissertation Award is a one-year dissertation completion fellowship. The award is open to U.S. citizens and permanent residents in all fields of study who are members of a racial or ethnic minority and plan to enter an academic career path. ***Please note that to obtain the full benefits associated with this award you must apply with university endorsement. Please contact the Office of Graduate Fellowships for details.*** Deadline: March 1.

Society for Historians of American Foreign Relations (SHAFR) Dissertation Completion Fellowship

<https://shafr.org/members/fellowships-grants#dissertation>

Fellowships support the completion of the doctoral dissertation by students in the humanities or social sciences who are working on a topic in the field of U.S. foreign relations history or international history. Applicants should be working on a topic in the field of U.S. foreign relations history or international history, broadly defined, and must be/become member of SHAFR prior to application. The Fellowship is for one year and carries a stipend of \$20,000.

UNCF / Merck Graduate Science Research Dissertation Fellowships

<http://umsi.uncf.org/>

Up to two years of support for doctoral level (Ph.D. or M.D.) research and degree completion in the sciences and engineering for African American candidates. Funding level varies according to length of award, up to \$53,500 plus mentorship by a Merck scientist or engineer. Candidate must be a citizen or permanent resident of the U.S.

Woodrow Wilson Doctoral Dissertation Fellowship in Women's Studies

<http://woodrow.org/fellowships/womens-studies/>

This one-time award of \$5,000 is offered to Ph.D. candidates at institutions in the United States who will complete their dissertations on issues related to women, gender, women's studies or feminist/gender/LGBTQ theory during the fellowship year. It aims to offer comprehensive support in the final year of dissertation writing. This competition is for projects in the humanities and social sciences; interdisciplinary projects are encouraged. However, projects in fields such as management, the clinical and biological sciences, health-related fields, and law are not eligible unless they have a demonstrable academic grounding in the humanities and social sciences. Candidates should be advanced to candidacy at the time of application. No citizenship or gender restrictions.

Residential Dissertation Fellowships

Residential fellowships offer advanced doctoral students the opportunity to complete their dissertations in residence at a college, university, or other institution where they are offered a stipend and faculty privileges (office/lab space, library access, parking, etc.). In return, fellows are expected to contribute to the intellectual life of the institution, either by teaching a specialized course (usually a seminar in their area of expertise) or by giving an occasional public lecture or interacting with students, faculty, and colleagues. While many such fellowships specifically target “under-represented minority” candidates (with the goal of increasing faculty diversity), the definition of “under-represented” can be quite broad, and prospective applicants are encouraged to carefully review eligibility requirements and (when available) the profiles of past recipients. These awards give preference to individuals preparing for academic / teaching careers.

This is not an exhaustive list, but rather a collection of examples. If you are interested in a particular college or geographical region you are encouraged to check for similar opportunities at the locations most appropriate for you.

American Bar Foundation Law and Social Science Dissertation Fellowships

<http://www.americanbarfoundation.org/research/Fellowshipopportunities/LawandSocialScienceDissertationFellowshipMentoringProgram.html>

The Law and Society Association, in collaboration with the American Bar Foundation and the National Science Foundation, seeks applications for the Law and Social Science Dissertation Fellowship and Mentoring Program (LSS Fellowship). Fellowships are held in residence at the American Bar Foundation in Chicago, IL, where Fellows are expected to participate in the intellectual life of the ABF, including participation in a weekly seminar series. The Fellowship is for two years. Graduate students who specialize in the field of law and social science and whose research interests include law and inequality are invited to apply. Open to U.S. citizens and permanent residents. \$30,000 per year plus other perks. Deadline: December 1.

Ann Plato Fellowship (Trinity College, Hartford, CT)

<http://www.trincoll.edu/Academics/dean/positions/pages/Ann.aspx>

Year-long pre- or post-doctoral (or post-MFA) residency at Trinity college. Applicants must be U.S. citizens or permanent residents who will contribute to enhancing diversity at Trinity College by increasing ethnic and racial diversity, maximizing the educational benefits of diversity, and/or increasing the number of professors who can and will use diversity as a resource for enriching the education of students. Stipend is \$50,000 (\$55,000 for post-doctoral fellows). Dissertation fellows teach 1 course per year (post-docs teach 2 courses.)

Arnold L. Mitchem Dissertation Fellowships (Marquette University)

<http://www.marquette.edu/provost/mitchem-dissertation-program.shtml>

One-year fellowship designed to help increase the presence of currently underrepresented racial and cultural groups in the U.S. professoriate by supporting doctoral candidates in completing the final academic requirement, the dissertation. Two awards are offered per year with a stipend of \$35,000. Check web site for eligible fields, which may vary from year to year. Fellows are to be in residence at Marquette University for the academic year, during which they teach one course in their area of specialization. See web site for fields invited in a given year/competition cycle. U.S. citizens / permanent residents. Deadline: January.

Chavez/Eastman/Marshall Dissertation Fellowships (Dartmouth College)

<http://graduate.dartmouth.edu/funding/fellowships/cem.html>

Cesar E. Chavez Fellowship (for scholars of Latino/Latina descent)

Charles A. Eastman Fellowship (for scholars of Native American descent)

Thurgood Marshall Fellowship (for scholars of African American descent)

Year-long residency for doctoral student completing dissertation. Fellow will complete the dissertation in residence at Dartmouth College and also participate in selected activities with Dartmouth undergraduates. \$25,000 plus other support. Open to US citizens in most fields – check web site for details. Deadline: February 1.

Dr. Kathryn E. Ágoston, Director of Graduate Fellowships, George Mason University

kagoston@gmu.edu • 703-993-3131 (Office) • <http://gradfellows.gmu.edu>

Consortium for Faculty Diversity in Liberal Arts Colleges

<http://www.gettysburg.edu/about/offices/provost/cfd/>

Dissertation and post-doctoral fellowships in all disciplines of the liberal arts and engineering for scholar-in-residence postings in a nationwide consortium of liberal arts colleges. Applicants must be U.S. citizens or permanent residents who are also members of under-represented minority groups. Appointments are made by the member institutions according to local needs and local program guidelines.

Gaius Charles Bolin Dissertation Fellowships (Williams College)

<http://dean-faculty.williams.edu/graduate-fellowships-2/graduate-fellowships/>

Two-year residency at Williams College in Williamstown, MA. The first year is spent primarily on dissertation completion, the second on academic career development while teaching one course. The Bolin Fellowship is awarded to U.S. citizens and permanent residents from under-represented groups, including ethnic minorities, first generation college graduates, women in predominantly male fields, and scholars with disabilities. Annual stipend is \$37,000 plus other support. This award is also open to post-MFA candidates.

Getty Pre-Doctoral and Post-Doctoral Fellowships (Getty Research Institute, Los Angeles, CA)

http://www.getty.edu/foundation/funding/residential/getty_pre_postdoctoral_fellowships.html

Getty Pre-Doctoral and Post-Doctoral Fellowships support emerging scholars in Art History, Cultural / Visual Studies, and closely related fields who are completing work on projects related to the Getty Research Institute's annual theme. Recipients are in residence at the Getty Research Institute, where they pursue research to complete their dissertations or to expand them for publication. Pre-Doctoral fellows are in residence from September to June and receive a stipend of \$25,000. (Postdocs receive \$30,000.) Scholars of all nationalities are welcome, but certain U.S. residency requirements apply, see web site for details. Deadline: October 1.

Jackie McLean Fellowship (University of Hartford, CT)

http://www.hartford.edu/aboutuofh/office_of_provost/jackie_mclean_fellows.aspx

Designed to support the development of diversity and intercultural competence on campus by bringing promising scholars or artists to our campus for a year. Successful candidates will demonstrate promise as a teacher and scholar or artist; interest in a career in academia; and a commitment to working with a diverse student body and advancing intercultural competence in all students. Responsibilities include teaching one course per semester, conducting research or scholarship toward the completion of their degree or as a follow-up to their graduate work, and engaging in academic service. For application information please visit the web site.

MIT School of Humanities, Arts and Social Sciences – Diversity Dissertation Fellowship

<http://shass.mit.edu/inside/resources/internal/diversity-predoc>

Fellowships support scholars from a wide range of backgrounds who can contribute to the diversity of SHASS and the higher education community. Applicants from members of racial and ethnic groups that have historically been underrepresented in the humanities and social sciences and from disadvantaged backgrounds are encouraged to apply. Each Fellow will be affiliated with a department or program at MIT. Fellows will not be required to teach while at MIT. The fellowship is for one year, stipend of \$50,000. Application deadline: May (can vary, check web site.)

Marilyn Yarbrough Dissertation/Teaching Fellowship (Kenyon College)

<http://www.kenyon.edu/x27112.xml>

Year-long residency for doctoral students completing dissertation. This program supports scholars from under-represented groups (including ethnic minorities, women in male dominated fields and men in female dominated fields, and persons who are first-generation college attendees.) Open to U.S. citizens in most fields in the arts and sciences. Fellows will complete the dissertation in residence at Kenyon College and teach one course per semester. \$32,500 plus other support.

Miller Center Fellowships in Politics and History

<http://millercenter.org/academic/dgs/fellowship>

The Miller Center of Public Affairs at the University of Virginia offers a competitive fellowship program for individuals completing their dissertations on American politics, foreign policy and world politics, or the impact of global affairs on the United States. The program funds 10 grants to support one year of research and writing. Stipend levels vary in the \$20,000-\$30,000 range. Residence at the Miller Center is strongly encouraged, but not required. No citizenship restrictions. Deadline: February.

Penn Predoctoral Fellowships for Excellence Through Diversity (University of Pennsylvania)

<http://provost.upenn.edu/diversity-predoc>

This program is designed to provide mentorship and access to Penn's resources for doctoral students in the humanities or social sciences, enrolled at universities other than Penn, as they complete their dissertations. It supports scholars from a wide range of backgrounds who can contribute to the diversity of Penn and the higher education community. The Fellowships support graduate students in the final stages of dissertation research or writing for residency at Penn for an academic year. Stipend is \$28,500 with additional support for research / travel.

Phillips Exeter Academy Dissertation Year Fellowships

https://www.exeter.edu/about_us/171_15053.aspx

Phillips Exeter Academy seeks to support the academic and career development of doctoral students, and promote diversity and lively intellectual exchange on its campus by offering a Dissertation Year Fellowship that will support PhD candidates in the completion stage of their dissertation. The fellowship offers a \$14,000 stipend plus room, board, benefits, travel funds, access to facilities and resources, and professional development opportunities. There is no teaching obligation, though fellows are invited to share their work/research with the community during their residency.