



Office of Graduate Fellowships

Fellowship Opportunities in:

Sociology

Introduction

Sociology is a wide-ranging field, and a correspondingly wide array of fellowship opportunities exists to support sociological research. It would be impossible to list every opportunity in a concise format, and students are encouraged to master search tools that will allow them to locate opportunities in their specific areas of interest. Some of the best tools can be found at the web site of the Office of Graduate Fellowships, along with links to popular grant and fellowships programs: <http://gradfellows.gmu.edu>

In Sociology, as in most of the liberal arts / social science fields, the largest number of funding opportunities are found at the Ph.D. level, either for dissertation research or writing. However, opportunities are also available at the Master's level, including large multi-year fellowships like the NSF GRFP. International opportunities for research and language training are available at both the Master's and Doctoral levels, as are fellowships supporting professional development experiences in policymaking or public service. Bear in mind that many competitions require the student to apply 6-12 months in advance of the time when funding will be needed.

Sociology students are especially encouraged to be aware of the following types of fellowships and awards, which may be used to support sociological research and professional development:

- **NSF:** The National Science Foundation supports graduate study in Sociology at the early stages through the NSF GRFP program, and at the advanced dissertation stage through Doctoral Dissertation Research Improvement (DDRI) grants.
- **Dissertation Completion Fellowships**, such as those offered by AAUW, ACLS, HFG, Woodrow Wilson Foundation, and the Ford Foundation. These awards, which support the final year of dissertation completion, are among the most prestigious competitions in the humanities and social sciences.
- **Residential Dissertation Completion Fellowships** offer full funding for dissertation completion in residency at a college or university, and may include a teaching component. These awards are usually targeted at under-represented groups, with the aim of diversifying higher education faculty.
- **Competitions that target specific demographic or identity groups**, including AAUW (women), Ford Foundation and SREB-State (under-represented racial/ethnic minorities seeking academic careers), and Soros (new Americans). Diaspora community organizations sometimes offer small grants based on identity as well (e.g. Italian Americans, Armenian Americans, Hispanic/Latino Americans, etc.)
- **International fellowships:** Students whose research requires language training and/or overseas fieldwork should seek out fellowships designed to support these endeavors, such as Fulbright, Boren, and Critical Languages programs, as well as region- or country-specific awards through organizations like CAORC.
- **Fellowships for professional development**, including programs like the Presidential Management Fellowships (PMF) that offer a 1-2 year funded work placement. Many such awards are offered through issue-oriented think tanks, advocacy organizations, nonprofits, or policymaking groups, and offer an on-ramp into careers in public service and public policy.

The list that follows represents a sampling of some of the best-known competitions and resources for funding sociological research at the graduate level that every student in the field should be aware of.

AAUW American Fellowships

<https://www.aauw.org/resources/programs/fellowships-grants/current-opportunities/american/>

AAUW American Fellowships support women scholars completing doctoral dissertations. Applicants must be U.S. citizens or permanent residents. 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. Dissertation fellowships stipend \$20,000. Deadline: November. This competition charges a modest application fee.

AAUW International Fellowships

<https://www.aauw.org/resources/programs/fellowships-grants/current-opportunities/international/>

AAUW International Fellowships provide support for women pursuing full-time graduate (MA or PhD) or postdoctoral study in the United States who are not U.S. citizens or permanent residents. Applicants may apply at any stage of their graduate career, with level of support varying from \$18,000-\$30,000 per year. Preference is given to candidates who demonstrate commitment to the advancement of women and girls, and who plan to return to their home country to pursue a professional career. A limited number of awards are renewable for a second year. Deadline: November. This competition charges a modest application fee.

American Sociological Association (ASA) Grants and Fellowships

<http://www.asanet.org/career-center/grants-and-fellowships>

ASA's main grants and fellowships page lists all fellowship opportunities for graduate students and faculty currently offered through ASA. These include Minority Fellowship Program, described below, as well as small travel grants for students to attend ASA's annual meetings.

American Sociological Association (ASA) Minority Fellowship Program

<http://www.asanet.org/career-center/grants-and-fellowships/minority-fellowship-program>

This program offers fellowships to doctoral students of color in any sub-area or specialty in sociology, including social psychology, gender and sexuality, education, medicine and health, inequalities and stratification, race and ethnicity, and more. Applicants must be US citizens/nationals, permanent residents, or DACA who are members of one of the following racial/ethnic groups: Blacks/African Americans, Hispanic/Latinx, American Indians or Alaskan Natives, and Asian / Pacific Islanders. The fellowship offers one year of support, including an \$18,000 stipend, tuition, and funds for ASA conference travel. Deadline: January

Boren Fellowships

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

Supports overseas language training in less-commonly studied languages/regions for graduate students in any field of study. Applicants at all stages of graduate education are accepted. Language study may be combined with research or internship. Will not support travel/study in Western Europe. U.S. citizens only. This program carries a post-graduation service requirement (paid employment) with the US Federal Government. Deadline: January.

CLIR Mellon Fellowships for Dissertation Research in Original Sources

<http://www.clir.org/fellowships/mellon>

The Council on Library and Information Resources (CLIR) offers fellowships funded by The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation for dissertation research in the humanities and related social sciences in original sources. The goal of the program is to encourage more extensive and innovative uses of original sources in libraries, archives, museums, historical societies, and related repositories in the U.S. and abroad. Award amounts vary. Application deadline: December.

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

<https://cescholar.org/eligibility>

Fellowships are for advanced doctoral students in the social sciences whose work will contribute to progressive change – specifically, making U.S. society less unequal, more democratic, and more environmentally sustainable. The fellowship supports the final year of dissertation writing / defense. No citizenship restrictions. Stipend: \$25,000. Deadline: December.

Center for Retirement Research (Boston College) Dissertation Fellowships

<http://crr.bc.edu/about-us/grant-programs/dissertation-fellowship-program-2/>

The Center for Retirement Research at Boston College sponsors the annual Dissertation Fellowship Program in the field of retirement and disability research. The program is funded by the U.S. Social Security Administration to provide funding opportunities for doctoral candidates to pursue cutting-edge research on issues related to retirement and disability issues. Specific areas focus are listed at the web site. Stipend \$28,000. Deadline: January.

Charlotte W. Newcombe Doctoral Dissertation Fellowships

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

Administered by the Woodrow Wilson Fellowship Foundation, the Newcombe Fellowship is a dissertation completion award intended to encourage original and significant study of ethical or religious values in all fields of the humanities and social sciences. Approximately 20 awards of \$25,000 are made per year for twelve months of full-time dissertation writing. Deadline: November.

Cosmos Scholarships

<http://www.cosmosclubfoundation.org/scholars/>

The Cosmos Club Foundation of Washington D.C. offers a small grant (\$500-\$4,000) in support of research in any field to graduate students at D.C. metro area universities. Open to both MA and PhD students with no citizenship restrictions. This grant can only be used to cover direct research costs that are otherwise un-supported, or in some cases costs associated with attending a professional conference. Application deadline: November 1.

Council of American Overseas Research Centers (CAORC)

<https://www.caorc.org/fellowships>

Both CAORC and its many member institutions offer fellowships for PhD and postdoctoral research abroad. Requirements and deadlines vary. See web site for details.

Critical Language Scholarships (CLS)

<http://clscholarship.org/>

Full funding to attend an overseas summer language program in one of fifteen designated “critical” languages. For some languages no prior study is required. For others pre-requisites apply, see web site for details. Open to U.S. citizens in all fields and degree levels. Deadline: November.

Ford Foundation Fellowship Program

<http://sites.nationalacademies.org/PGA/FordFellowships/index.htm>

The Ford Foundation Program of the National Academies offers Pre-Doctoral, Dissertation, and Post-Doctoral awards for PhD students in research-based programs who intend to pursue academic careers. This award is open to US citizens and permanent residents (plus DACA and others with special status) in most fields of study, including Sociology. The goal of the program is to promote diversity in higher education by funding candidates: (a) Who are a member of 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 goals indicate a likelihood of using the diversity of human experience as an educational resource in teaching and scholarship. Deadline: November.

Fulbright U.S. Student Program

<http://us.fulbrightonline.org>

The Fulbright U.S. Student Program offers grants for one academic year of overseas research/study OR English language teaching. Applicants must be U.S. citizens who will have completed a bachelor's degree by the start date of the grant, but do not yet hold a Ph.D. Continuing students in both MA and PhD programs are eligible, as are students who have recently completed an MA. Though the Fulbright program is not a doctoral dissertation research program, it is possible to use a Fulbright grant to conduct dissertation research abroad. Requirements vary by country; some countries require foreign language proficiency. This application requires a campus-level review process to obtain institutional endorsement – please see the Director of Graduate Fellowships. Deadline falls annually on September 15.

Fulbright-Hays Doctoral Dissertation Research Abroad (DDRA) Fellowship

<http://www2.ed.gov/programs/iegpsddrap/index.html>

The Fulbright-Hays DDRA Fellowship offers six to twelve months of funding for overseas dissertation research in areas outside western Europe. The competition is open to U.S. citizens and permanent residents who are advanced to doctoral candidacy and who possess the language skills necessary to complete their project. This competition currently runs on an irregular timeline, with deadlines typically falling in January for awards beginning October – March. Must be submitted by the institution on the student's behalf; see the Director of Graduate Fellowships to apply.

Harry Frank Guggenheim Foundation Dissertation Fellowships

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

Dissertation completion award of \$20,000 for candidates in the final year of their Ph.D. program. The HFG Foundation supports dissertation completion for studies 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 requirements. Deadline: February 1.

NSF Graduate Research Fellowship Program (GRFP)

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

The National Science Foundation's flagship graduate fellowship program supports outstanding graduate students in NSF-supported disciplines (including Sociology) who are pursuing research-based master's and doctoral degrees at accredited US institutions. Candidates apply when seeing admission to a graduate program or in the early semesters of graduate study. The GRFP provides three years of support, including a stipend of \$34,000 per year, plus tuition and access to professional development opportunities. Limited to U.S. citizens / nationals and permanent residents. Deadline: October.

NSF Doctoral Dissertation Research Improvement Grants in Sociology

https://www.nsf.gov/funding/pgm_summ.jsp?pims_id=505118&org=NSF

The NSF Sociology Program supports basic research on all forms of human social organization and processes of individual and institutional change. The Program encourages theoretically focused empirical investigations aimed at improving the explanation of fundamental social processes. Doctoral Dissertation Improvement (DDRI) grants provide funding for research expenses to improve the quality of doctoral dissertation projects undertaken by students enrolled in U.S. universities. Funds may be used to defray direct costs associated with conducting research, for example, dataset acquisition, additional statistical or methodological training, meeting with scholars associated with original datasets, and fieldwork away from the student's home campus. The amount of the award is determined by the budget, but typically under \$16,000. Deadline: October.

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 (including Sociology) 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 \$35,000 (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.

PMF (Presidential Management Fellowships)

<http://www.pmf.gov/>

The PMF Fellowship places recent recipients of graduate degrees in a two-year salaried position in the US federal government. Students apply in the last year of graduate school or within two years after graduation. PMFs receive special professional development and rotational opportunities designed to train them for management level careers in the federal government. Open to U.S. citizens in all fields of study.

Paul and Daisy Soros Fellowships for New Americans

<https://www.pdsoros.org/>

Supports 1-2 years of graduate study for students who are recent immigrants (e.g. naturalized citizens of the U.S.) or the children of recent immigrants. All fields are eligible, but applicants must not be beyond their second year of graduate study in their chosen field. Stipend \$25,000 plus tuition support and other benefits. Deadline: October.

SREB-State Doctoral Scholars Program (DSP)

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

SREB (Southern Regional Education Board)-State DSP is a regional award open to Ph.D. students at George Mason University. Two types of fellowship are offered: The Doctoral Award supports new Ph.D. students for up to three years. The Dissertation Award is a one-year award for students who have been advanced to doctoral candidacy and are working on their dissertation. The goal of this program is to contribute to the diversification of the professoriate by supporting U.S. citizens and permanent residents who are members of a racial or ethnic minority and plan to become a full-time college or university faculty members after earning the Ph.D.

Social Science Research Council (SSRC) Fellowships and Awards

<https://www.ssrc.org/fellowships/>

SSRC runs a large number of fellowship programs for scholars in the humanities and social sciences, some of which are open to graduate students and postdocs. See the website for more information.

SSRC International Dissertation Research Fellowship (IDRF)

<http://www.ssrc.org/fellowships/idrf-fellowship/>

Offers 9-12 months of support to advanced doctoral students in the humanities and social sciences who are conducting dissertation research outside the US. Research topics may address all periods in history, but applicants should call attention to the broader implications of their work as it relates to contemporary issues and debates. No citizenship restrictions. The applicant must have sufficient proficiency in the host country language to conduct independent research. Deadline: November.

Sociologists for Women in Society (SWS) Dissertation Scholarships

<https://socwomen.org/awards/>

Scholarships support doctoral students in the social sciences and related disciplines pursuing a broad range of topics, including gender, ethnicity, and social inequity. See web site for a list of specific scholarships offered in a given year. Eligibility requirements and award amounts vary. Deadline: April.

Smithsonian Institution Office of Fellowships and Internships

<http://www.smithsonianofi.com/>

The Smithsonian Institution offers fellowships in support of pre-dissertation, dissertation, and post-doctoral research in a wide range of fields making use of SI collections and research centers. See web site for descriptions of available awards, eligibility requirements, and stipend levels. SI also offers internships; these are mostly unpaid shorter-term assignments, but can help students network and learn more about SI with an eye toward future fellowship opportunities.

Woodrow Wilson Doctoral Dissertation Fellowship in Women's Studies

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

This fellowship is offered to Ph.D. candidates at institutions in the United States whose research focuses on issues related to women, gender, women's studies or feminist/gender/LGBTQ theory. The award offers \$5,000 to be used for expenses connected with completing the dissertation, such as research-related travel, data work/collection, and supplies. Candidates should be advanced to candidacy at the time of application. No citizenship or gender restrictions.