



## 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 the competitions that are most commonly asked about: <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. Opportunities are also available at the Master's level, though these will trend more toward professional development fellowships or small grants to support short-term research or conference travel. International opportunities for research, language study, and professional development also exist. 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:

- **NSF:** The National Science Foundation supports certain types of graduate research in Sociology.
- **Competitions open to a wide range of fields,** such as those offered by AAUW, ACLS, SSRC, Woodrow Wilson Foundation, and the Ford Foundation. These are among the most prestigious fellowship-granting organizations, and they frequently fund students / projects in History.
- **Competitions that target specific demographic or identity groups,** including AAUW (women), Ford Foundation and SREB-State (under-represented racial/ethnic minorities), 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.)
- **Residential Dissertation Completion Fellowships:** These awards are usually targeted at under-represented groups (though definitions of this vary widely) and offer full funding for a dissertation completion residency at a prestigious institution while teaching 1-2 classes.
- **International fellowships:** Sociology 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-specific awards.
- **Interdisciplinary programs:** Look for cross-disciplinary opportunities in your area of research, such as Education, Women's / Gender Studies, American / Cultural Studies, and so on. If you are uncertain whether a specific competition will consider applicants from Sociology, contact them and ask. Some competitions strongly favor specific disciplines, while others may be open to cross-over research.

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

### **AAUW American Fellowships**

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

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 are currently set at \$20,000 for the academic year. Postdoctoral fellowships of \$30,000 are also available. Deadline: November. This competition charges a modest application fee.

### **AAUW International Fellowships**

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

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: December. 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 the two major fellowship programs listed below, as well as small travel grants for students to attend ASA's annual meetings.

### **American Sociological Association (ASA) Congressional Postdoctoral Fellowship**

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

The fellowship brings PhD-level sociologists to Washington DC to work as staff members on a congressional committee in a congressional office, or as a member of a congressional agency (e.g., the General Accounting Office). The fellowship is for 12 months and carries a stipend of \$66,000. Deadline: February.

### **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, or permanent residents who are members of one of the following racial/ethnic groups: Blacks/African Americans, Latinos/as (e.g., Mexican Americans, Puerto Ricans, Cubans), American Indians or Alaskan Natives, and Asians (e.g., Chinese, Japanese, Korean, Southeast Asian), or Pacific Islanders (e.g., Hawaiian, Guamanian, Samoan, Filipino). 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 program offers about fifteen competitively awarded fellowships a year in amounts up to \$25,000. Each provides a stipend of \$2,000 per month for periods ranging from 9-12 months. Each fellow receives an additional \$1,000 upon participating in a symposium on research in original sources and submitting a report acceptable to CLIR on the research experience. Deadline: November.

### **Center for Engaged Scholarship (CES) Dissertation Completion Fellowship for Social Scientist**

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

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 income 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 retirement income issues. Stipend is \$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. Proposals exploring religious and ethical issues reflected in history, art, or literature are welcome. 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.

### **Critical Language Scholarships (CLS)**

<http://clscholarship.org/>

Full funding to attend an overseas summer language program in one of fourteen designated “critical” languages. For some languages no background is required and students at all stages may apply. For others pre-requisites apply, see web site for details. U.S. citizens only. Open to all fields, at all stages of study; must be an enrolled student at the time of application. 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 intending academic careers. This award is open to US citizens in most fields of study in the STEM and liberal arts fields, including Sociology. The award aims 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 aims demonstrate 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 independent overseas research/study for U.S. citizens who have completed a bachelor's degree (by the start date of the grant), but not yet 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 (and common) to use a Fulbright grant to conduct dissertation research abroad. Some countries also offer grants for students to serve abroad as English Teaching Assistants or to engage in Digital History/Digital Storytelling projects. Requirements vary by country; some countries require foreign language proficiency. This application requires university endorsement – please see the Director of Graduate Fellowships to apply. 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 program (not to be confused with the Fulbright U.S. Student Program) 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 the spring for awards beginning October – March. Requires university endorsement; 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. Deadline: February 1.

### **NSF Graduate Research Fellowship Program (GRFP)**

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

The National Science Foundation's flagship graduate fellowship program recognizes and 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 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 and other perks. Limited to U.S. citizens / nationals and permanent residents. Deadline: October.

### **NSF Doctoral Dissertation Research Improvement Grants (Sociology)**

[https://www.nsf.gov/funding/pgm\\_summ.jsp?pims\\_id=505118&org=NSF](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 grants provide support to improve the conduct of doctoral dissertation projects undertaken by doctoral 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 \$12,000. 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 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 6<sup>th</sup> year or the doctoral program. Deadline: October.

### **PMF (Presidential Management Fellowships)**

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

The PMF Fellowship places graduating graduate students in a two-year paid position in the US federal government. U.S. citizens only – rare exceptions may be possible for those on a path to citizenship. Students apply in the last year of graduate school. The recently introduced “Tech Fellows” program is an initiative within the PMF competition to attract more and better candidates from STEM and technical fields; currently it is the same application process as PMF.

### **Paul and Daisy Soros Fellowships for New Americans**

<http://www.pdsoros.org/competition/>

Supports students who are recent immigrants (e.g. naturalized citizens of the U.S.) or the children of recent immigrants for graduate study in the United States. All fields are eligible, but student must not be beyond their second year of graduate study in their chosen field.

### **SREB-State Doctoral Scholars Program**

[http://www.sreb.org/page/1074/doctoral\\_scholars.html](http://www.sreb.org/page/1074/doctoral_scholars.html)

SREB (Southern Regional Education Board) 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. 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 member after earning the Ph.D.

### **SSRC International Dissertation Research Fellowship (IDRF)**

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

Offers 9-12 months of support to advance graduate students in the humanities and social sciences who are enrolled in doctoral programs in the US and 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://www.socwomen.org/list-of-committees/awards-programs-2/>

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 vary; some awards are limited to women. Award amount range from \$1,000-\$15,000. 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. Opportunities and deadlines vary by host unit. See web site for details. 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**

[http://www.woodrow.org/higher-education-fellowships/women\\_gender/index.php](http://www.woodrow.org/higher-education-fellowships/women_gender/index.php)

This \$5,000 fellowship 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. The competition is for projects in the humanities and social sciences; interdisciplinary projects are encouraged. Candidates should be advanced to candidacy at the time of application. No citizenship or gender restrictions.