Mellon/ACLS Dissertation Completion Fellowship

Dr. Adrienne P. Stephenson, Director
Dr. Carson Bay, Assistant Director
Office of Graduate Fellowships & Awards (OGFA)
Eligibility Criteria

• Must be a Humanities/Social Sciences PhD Candidate at a U.S. university
• Must be officially ABD
• Must be no more than six years into the program (including an associated MA)
• Must not hold, nor have held, another dissertation completion fellowship
• Must not have applied for the Mellon/ACLS dissertation fellowship more than once
Requirements

- Completed application form
- Proposal (≤5 pages, double-space, 11 pt. Times New Roman)
- Timeline (1 page, include research, writing, & defense)
- Supporting materials (≤3 pages, non-text images)
- Bibliography (≤2 pages)
- Completed dissertation chapter (≤25 double-spaced pages)
- Letters of reference (2, 1 from dissertation advisor)
- Statement of Institutional Support (Dept. Chair or Dean)

Must 1) affirm the timeline’s viability, 2) guarantee that university tuition/fees will not exceed $5,000, and 3) pledge that no subsequent aid will be given to the applicant if awarded the fellowship
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Letters of Recommendation (request soon)
Institutional Letter (request soon)
Proposal, bibliography, timeline
Document review

Identify 2-3 people to review documents.

Advisor or at least an expert in your specific area of study
Someone who works in your field of study, but may not be an expert in what you study
External review – OGFA or other person familiar with grant/fellowship applications
Heilmeier’s Catechism: Questions All Proposals Must Answer

1. What are you trying to do?
2. How is it done today, and what are the limitations of current practice?
3. What’s new in your approach, and why do you think it will be successful?
4. Who cares? If you’re successful, what difference does it make?
5. What are the risks and what are the rewards?
6. How much will it cost, and how long will it take?
7. What are the midterm and final “exams” to check for success?
Scholars asked to review applications in this program are instructed to use the following four criteria:

- The potential of the project to advance the field of study in which it is proposed and make an original, significant contribution to knowledge.
- The quality of the proposal with regard to methodology, scope, theoretical framework, and grounding in relevant scholarly literature.
- The feasibility of the project and the likelihood that the applicant will execute the work within the proposed time frame.
- The applicant's record of scholarly engagement and potential for scholarly achievement.
Contact Information

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