Mellon/ACLS
Dissertation Completion Fellowship

Dr. Adrienne P. Stephenson, Director
Carson Bay, Assistant Director
Office of Graduate Fellowships and 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
Application Timeline

Application Due: October 24, 9:00 PM

- Letters of Recommendation (request now)
- Institutional Letter (request yesterday)
- 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
• S.M.A.R.T. Objectives = your baseline
  
  **Specific** – Your proposed project must be clear, focused, and easily interpreted by anyone.
  **Measurable** – Your project must be measurable. You must be able to analyze progress.
  **Attainable** – Your project must be achievable, reasonable, and possible in real life.
  **Relevant** – Your project specifics must match an overall project that people care about.
  **Timely** – Your project must be feasible to complete within timeline, and important for now.

• Can you explain your project to anyone?

• Can you clearly articulate your project’s…
  
  **Potential** to advance your chosen field(s) of study?
  **Quality** in terms of method, scope, theory, and bibliographical grounding?
  **Feasibility** in terms of likeliness of completion/success? (mitigating risks, potential pitfalls)
  **Continuation** of your record of scholarly engagement / Confirmation of your academic promise
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?
Contact Information

The Office of Graduate Fellowships and Awards
Honors, Scholars, Fellows House
127 Honors Way

ogfa-info@fsu.edu
ogfa.fsu.edu
850-645-0850

@ogf afsu /ogf afsu