



Mellon/ACLS & Major Humanities Fellowships

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



Outline

- Types of major humanities/social sciences fellowships
- Application components
- Distinctives of major humanities/social sciences fellowships
 - *ACLS/Mellon Fellowships*
 - *Woodrow Wilson Fellowships*
 - *Josephine de Karman Fellowship*
 - *SSRC Fellowships*
- Important considerations in planning and applying
- Contact information



Fellowship Types

- **Dissertation Research/Completion Fellowships**

ACLS/Mellon Dissertation Completion Fellowship

Guggenheim Dissertation Fellowships

Charlotte Newcombe Doctoral Dissertation Fellowship

Josephine de Karman Fellowship

Jefferson Scholars National Fellowship

CES Dissertation Fellowship

- **Doctoral Program Fellowships**

Ford Foundation Predoctoral Fellowship

McKnight Doctoral Fellowship

- **Discipline-Specific Fellowships**

Society of Christian Philosophers GSCT

ACLS Robert H. N. Ho Fellowships

- **International Fellowships**

SSRC International Dissertation Research Fellowship

Luce/ACLS China Studies Travel Grants

Fulbright-Hays DDRA

Chateaubriand Fellowships



Applications

Major fellowship applications will *usually* require:

Project Proposal/Bibliography

Transcripts

Letters of Recommendation

Project Timeline

Major fellowship applications will *sometimes* require:

Personal Statement

Dissertation Chapter

Budget

Institutional Letter



American Council of Learned Societies

- Leading *private* institution supporting scholars in the humanities and related social sciences.

“For the purpose of these competitions, the humanities and related social sciences include but are not limited to American studies; anthropology; archaeology; art history and architectural history; classics; economics; ethnic studies; film; gender studies; geography; history; languages and literatures; legal studies; linguistics; musicology; philosophy; political science; psychology; religious studies; rhetoric, communication, and media studies; science and technology studies; sociology; and theater, dance, and performance studies.”

*Social science fields “are eligible *only if* they employ predominantly humanistic approaches and qualitative/interpretive methodologies.”



ACLS/Mellon Dissertation Completion Fellowship

Applications due in late October

\$30,000 stipend + \$3,000 research costs + \$5,000 university fees

Eligibility

- PhD candidate (ABD)
- ≤ 6 years into program
- Never held a dissertation-completion fellowship before
- Not applied for fellowship more than once previously
- No professional degrees or PhDs from professional departments

Application

- Application form
- Project proposal (5 pages)
- Timeline (1 page)
- Images, scores (3 pages)
- Bibliography (2 pages)
- Completed chapter (<25 pages)
- Two reference letters
- Institutional support statement



ACLS/Mellon Dissertation Completion Fellowship

Evaluation Criteria:

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



Luce/ACLS Dissertation Fellowship in American Art

Applications due in late October

\$34,000 stipend + \$4,000 travel allowance

Eligibility

- PhD candidate (Art History)
- Dissertation topic in the history of visual art in the United States
- Never held a dissertation-completion fellowship before
- Not applied for fellowship more than once previously
- U.S. Citizen/Permanent Resident

Application

- Application form
- Project proposal (5 pages)
- Illustrations (3 pages)
- Bibliography (2 pages)
- List of publications, exhibitions, presentations (2 pages)
- Two reference letters
- Institutional support statement



Luce/ACLS Dissertation Fellowship in American Art

Evaluation Criteria:

1. The quality of the proposal with regard to its methodology, scope, theoretical framework, and grounding in the relevant scholarly literature.
2. The potential of the project to advance the field of study in art history, both generally and in the specific field(s) it engages.
3. The applicant's record of scholarly engagement and potential for scholarly achievement.



ACLS Robert H. N. Ho Family Foundation Dissertation Fellowship in Buddhist Studies

Applications due in mid November
\$30,000 stipend

Eligibility

- PhD candidate (by April 15th)
- (Research area must qualify as ‘Buddhist studies’)

Selection Criteria

- Significance of the topic/potential contribution to Buddhist studies
- Coherence and cogency of presentation
- Feasibility of the plan of work
- Potential of the applicant for an academic career in Buddhist studies



ACLS Fellowship Proposals

Considerations from Christina M. Gillis:

- First-round reviewers are from the disciplines of the various applicants... Second-round reviewers come from across the humanities and social science disciplines.
- “The applicant should use the beginning paragraphs to announce his or her voice, clearly establish the main question to be pursued, and set up the reader’s expectations regarding the principle research statement of the proposal.”
- The proposed project should be clearly contextualized within the ‘bigger picture’ of the humanities, society, and culture writ large.
- A “common strategy is the effective reference to focused, easily-recognizable, and previously unaddressed or inadequately addressed questions in the field.”



Woodrow Wilson

“The Woodrow Wilson National Fellowship Foundation identifies and develops leaders and institutions to meet the nation’s critical challenges.”

In recent years, the foundation has identified one of the nation’s most urgent challenges as “the pervasive achievement gap between Americans, by race and income.”

The foundation offers dissertation fellowships in fields related to religious values and ethics; foreign affairs fellowships; teaching fellowships (for primary and secondary education); and women’s studies fellowships.



Woodrow Wilson

Charlotte W. Newcombe Doctoral Dissertation Fellowship

Encourages original and significant study of ethical or religion values in all fields of the humanities and social sciences.

\$25,000 stipend + tuition/fees

Eligibility:

- PhD/ThD candidates in American humanities or social sciences departments at the dissertation writing stage;
- Anticipate completion April-August following the award year;
- Never received a similar award or applied for this award.

Application (due mid November):

- Online form, transcripts, proposal document, 3 recommendation letters
- Proposal = cover sheet, abstract, proposal, bibliography, timetable, C.V.



Woodrow Wilson

Women's Studies Fellowship

Encourages original and significant research about women that crosses disciplinary, regional, or cultural boundaries.

\$5,000 award for research, travel, data collection, or supplies

Eligibility:

- PhD candidates in U.S. humanities and social sciences programs writing dissertations on issues related to women, gender, feminist/LGBTQ theory
- Anticipating graduate the summer after the award year

Application (due mid October):

- Online form, supplemental items, doctoral transcripts, 2 recommendations
- Supplement = abstract, proposal, bibliography, timetable, personal statement. C.V.



Josephine de Karman

\$25,000 stipend

The Josephine de Karman Fellowship Trust is a private trust established to recognize and assist students whose scholastic achievements reflect the high standards of the late Dr. Theodore Von Karman, aeronautics expert and first director of the Guggenheim Aeronautical Laboratory at the California Institute of Technology (named in memory of his sister).

For PhD candidates at U.S. universities who will graduate near the end of the fellowship year. Students (including international students) in *any discipline* may apply, with special consideration given to those in the humanities fields.



Josephine de Karman

Competition Statement:

“Potential applicants should note that the competition for DeKarman fellowships is extreme. For the 2018-2019 cycle, the committee reviewed over 400 applications and awarded seven (7) fellowships. To be competitive, graduate applicants should have outstanding letters of recommendation, significant early scholarly contributions, and have completed several chapters of the dissertation at the time of application. Although the competition is open to graduate students from any U.S. university, the vast majority of awards go to students at top-tier schools.”

Applications:

Application form (including two short essays), transcripts, two recommendation letters, statement of intellectual interest (500 words), C.V. (2 pages, optional)

**applications must be physically mailed and postmarked by midnight on January 31st*



Social Science Research Council

“The Social Science Research Council, an independent, international nonprofit, mobilizes necessary knowledge for the public good by supporting scholars worldwide, generating new research across disciplines, and linking researchers with policymakers and citizens.”

The SSRC offers a large number of fellowships in a variety of disciplines designed to encourage significant, beneficial research into human behavior, society, and policy.



SSRC

Know your audience!

Know your stuff!

Write well!

IDRF Selection Criteria Statement:

"Applicants are expected to write in clear, intelligible prose for a selection committee that is multidisciplinary and cross-regional. Proposals should display a thorough knowledge of the major concepts, theories, and methods in the applicant's discipline and in other related fields, as well as a bibliography relevant to the research. Applicants should specify why an extended period of on-site research is critical for successful completion of the proposed doctoral dissertation. The research design of proposals should be realistic in scope, clearly formulated, and responsive to theoretical and methodological concerns."

Know your background!

Know your reason!

Know your application!



Takeaways

There are some important considerations and rules that apply generally to major humanities, fine arts, and social science awards.

- *Presentation matters* – in these fields in particular, the structure and style of research proposals, abstracts, etc., determine an application's strength. Clear and succinct statements about innovation, engagement, and significance are your best friends.
- *'Fit' matters* – the description of a particular organization, the stated mission of a given award, and your articulation of your background and scholarly identity are items that must be conceptually aligned for your application to be competitive.
- *Knowledge matters* – your ability to speak knowledgably to your field as a whole, to a robust and pertinent bibliography, to your project's various contexts, *and* to your project's details represents a *sine qua non* of writing competitive applications.



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



[@ogfafs](https://twitter.com/ogfafs)



[/ogfafs](https://www.facebook.com/ogfafs)