TO: All Post-Comps Graduate Students

FROM: Michaela Hoenicke-Moore, Director of Graduate Studies

RE: Dissertation Fellowships
DATE: January 8, 2015

Attached are the instructions for applying for the Ballard-Seashore Fellowships and other Awards offered by the Graduate College (GC) and University and for the History Department’s own fellowships for dissertation research and writing.

Here are the crucial dates:

By Monday, February 2nd, all materials (see first 3 items of following paragraph) for these fellowships are to be sent electronically to Sheri Sojka (sherijojka@uiowa.edu).

In late February, the faculty will decide upon fellowship nominations, based upon the recommendations of the Department’s awards committee. The Department will forward its nominations, including a letter of endorsement for each candidate by the DEO, to the Graduate College.

The Graduate College application includes:

• a one-page abstract written to be understood by people in other fields of study. The abstract should address the purpose of the research, how the research will be carried out, and the value of the research to the student’s field (do not include references).
• a two-page document containing 1) a descriptive list of chapters and 2) a timetable for completion of the dissertation.
• a one-page C.V. of educational and professional experience, honors and awards, and publications.
• a DEO endorsement
• two letters of support (one from the dissertation director)

The Departmental committee will also need to see all completed dissertation chapters.

Students who apply for a Ballard/Seashore are automatically considered for a Departmental award unless the applicant explicitly states that she/he does not want a Departmental award. The converse is not the case: students who apply for Departmental awards are only considered for Ballard/Seashore nominations if they apply for the latter as well. Please be clear about which awards or fellowships you are seeking in your cover letter and note the slight differences in the application materials required.

Additional research awards (with application instructions listed on respective websites):

GSS Travel Awards (conference & research) http://gss.grad.uiowa.edu/fundingGSS, next deadline: January 22, 2015
IP Stanley Graduate Award for International Research (pre-prospectus), deadline: February 11, 2015 http://international.uiowa.edu/funding/students.awards/Stanley/graduate

GC Post-Comps Research Award http://www.grad.uiowa.edu/gc-post-comprehensive-research-awards, deadline February 15, 2015 (see also below)

GC Post-Comps Summer Research Award http://www.grad.uiowa.edu/gc-post-comprehensive-summer-research-awards, deadline March 13, 2015


GC Graduate Diversity Scholarship http://www.grad.uiowa.edu/graduate-diversity-scholarship, deadline April 30, 2015
**Graduate College Dissertation Fellowships**

**BALLARD AND SEASHORE DISSERTATION FELLOWSHIPS** will be awarded this spring for fall or spring semester 2015-16.

This fellowship program provides an opportunity for doctoral students to benefit from a final semester of protected and supported time to focus on completing their scholarly research activities and the writing of their dissertations. A one-time fellowship award will be given for $10,000.

One-semester awards will be made annually in each of the four major disciplines: 1) humanities, 2) social sciences, 3) biomedical and life sciences, and 4) physical, mathematical and engineering science disciplines.

The award provides a $10,000 fellowship for one academic semester. The award also provides two credit hours of tuition only (at the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences rate), and a health/dental insurance allowance. Students are responsible for the payment of mandatory fees.

A complete nomination must include:

**Student materials:**

- A one-page abstract written to be understood by people in other fields of study. The abstract should address the purpose of the research, how the research will be carried out, and the value of the research to the student's field (do not include references).
- A two-page document containing 1) a descriptive list of chapters and 2) a timetable for completion of the dissertation.
- A one-page C.V. of the nominee's educational and professional experience, honors and awards, and publications.
- One or more chapters of the dissertation.  *[This is a departmental requirement. The chapters are not forwarded to the Graduate College with the rest of the materials.]*

**Two letters of support:**

- One letter from a committee member or other faculty member familiar with the student's work.
- One letter from the nominee's dissertation director that includes:
  - How long the student has been working on the Ph.D.
  - Confirmation the student will have successfully completed the comprehensive exam by the nomination deadline (March 1st)
  - How much work has already been accomplished on the dissertation.
  - The value of the research topic to the specific field.
  - The likelihood that the degree will be completed by the end of the 2016 summer session at the latest.

**Director of Graduate Studies letter:**

A brief endorsement that assesses the student’s academic progress, research potential and likelihood of completion within one semester of receiving the award.

In the case of multiple nominations from a department, the DGS letter must rank the nominees.

The Graduate College will provide the Graduate College’s fellowships committee with the student’s academic records.

A department may not nominate a student more than once for the fellowship. Complete information on the Ballard/Seashore Fellowships is available at [http://www.grad.uiowa.edu/ballard-and-seashore-dissertation-year-fellowships](http://www.grad.uiowa.edu/ballard-and-seashore-dissertation-year-fellowships)
History Department Awards

The Departmental Awards Committee places first priority on making awards to post-comp students who have not held a Departmental award previously. If, however, there are not enough suitable first-time candidates for the awards, previous awardees can receive a second one. This eligibility restriction applies only to Departmental awards, not to students who have previously held other fellowships (for example external grants). Students must be post-comp to hold one of these awards. The Department hopes to have the following fellowships for 2015-16. The amounts given are last year’s values and may be subject to change – especially given the recent performance of the markets in which these funds are invested.

William O. Aydelotte Dissertation Fellowship: awarded by the History Department for research (unrestricted) $4,000
Laurence Lafore Dissertation Fellowship: awarded to one or two students by the History Department for research (unrestricted) $4,000 (each)
Charles F. Strong Dissertation Fellowship: awarded by the Department of History for research in Early U.S. History $4,000
Lawrence E. Gelfand Award awarded by the History Department for research in US History $1,500
Elizabeth Bennett Ink Dissertation Fellowship: awarded by the History Department for research in U.S. History $4,000
Gordon Prange Dissertation Fellowship: awarded by the History Department for research in European History $4,000
Louis Pelzer Dissertation Fellowship: awarded by the History Department for research in U.S. History, approximately $18,000 [Technically, the Graduate College makes this award, but does so to the nominee of the History Department.]
*Leger-Anderson Fellowship: awarded by the History Department to one or more female graduate students in any field, awards totaling $10,000 (each).
*History Graduate Fellowship: awarded by the History Department (unrestricted), $10,000.
Henry Horwitz Prize for Best Issues or Diversity Syllabus: awarded by the History Department to one graduate student in any field, award totaling $300.

The application for the Departmental awards overlaps somewhat with that for the Graduate College dissertation fellowships. We require:

- A cover letter; explicitly outlining the intended use of the funds
- A complete C.V., which includes all previous appointments, grants and fellowships received, with dates;
- One letter of recommendation by a faculty member (usually the advisor);
- A substantial piece of written work. This means at least one of the following: an approved prospectus, dissertation chapter(s), seminar paper or MA essay. Our Department relies very heavily on reading what students produce (rather than on cover letters, vitae, and letters of recommendation) to evaluate and to compare applicants’ quality of scholarship. The student should provide what he or she thinks represents his/her best work when applying for our awards.

*A separate cover letter (explicitly outlining the intended use of the funds) and a 2-page abstract of the dissertation project must accompany applications for the Leger-Anderson Fellowship and/or the History Graduate Fellowship. (Note each award requires separate forms).

Because we proceed with the Graduate College nominations and Departmental awards at the same time, we do not announce the Departmental awards until the Graduate College has decided upon the Ballard/Seashore Fellowships. These announcements may not be made until late March or April.

Students who are nominated for the Ballard/Seashore Fellowships are also ranked for Departmental awards unless their cover letter explicitly states that they do not wish to be considered for one or more of them, or because they have already held Departmental awards.
Graduate College Post-Comprehensive Research Awards (new award)

This award program provides an opportunity for advanced doctoral students to benefit from protected and supported time to pursue their scholarly research activities. The award is intended for students who have held teaching assistantships in the previous academic year and in recognition of distinguished academic achievement during their early graduate training. These achievements should be evident from a combination of outstanding academic performance in coursework, as well as early scholarly research activities.

Eligible students must have successfully completed their comprehensive examinations prior to submission of an application for this award. Awardees will receive an academic semester of protected and supported time to fully engage in their scholarly research activities. Awardees will receive a research assistantship in the amount of $9,040. The Graduate College will also support up to 2 sh tuition (at the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences rate) and health benefits for the semester. Students are responsible for payment of mandatory fees.

Recipients must be within one year of having successfully completed their comprehensive examinations. Recipients may also be considered for Graduate College’s Summer Research Fellowships or Dissertation Fellowships; however, a minimum of one year must elapse following the Post-Comp Research Award period. Graduate College Recruitment Fellowship recipients are not eligible for this award.

Departments may nominate (in rank order) up to two students per deadline. Nominations deadlines are February 15, 2015 (funding for Fall 2015 semester) and September 15, 2015 (funding for Spring 2016 semester)

STUDENT MATERIALS (SINGLE SPACED, 12 PT. TYPE, 1” MARGINS):

• A brief paragraph (250 words or less) should highlight how the nominee has performed with distinction since undertaking graduate study at the University.

• A one-page research outline and plan of study written to be understood by people in other fields of study. It should address the significance and purpose of the research and how this opportunity will impact the nominee's subsequent research plans (do not include references).

• A one-page C.V. of the nominee's educational and professional experience, honors and awards, and publications.

Award recipients are expected to present their research at the Jakobsen Graduate Conference during and/or following completion of this award period.

TWO LETTERS OF SUPPORT:

• One letter from the nominee's dissertation director addressing a) a defined plan for close mentorship of the student during this semester and b) the student’s readiness to undertake the research plan.

• One letter from the Director of Graduate Studies to describe and assess the student’s level of distinction when compared with his/her peer cohort.