

**Provost's Pre-Dissertation Research Fellowship**  
**Deadline for Applications: Thursday, February 25th, 2021, 3:00 pm**

The Provost's Office is pleased to announce the following pre-dissertation fellowship competition for doctoral students in the humanities and social sciences. These summer awards provide \$4,000.

This fellowship program has two objectives:

- To allow students to conduct pre-dissertation research and training following completion of the first exam.
- To support the development of a dissertation research proposal suitable for submission to an external funding agency.

This program seeks to facilitate the transition from coursework to advanced individualized research. Early research awards allow students to strengthen their proposals by:

- Refining their research topic into a well-defined research problem;
- Determining appropriate research design, methods, research locale(s), and language(s);
- Assessing project feasibility and determining necessary affiliations and approvals.

The successful applicant will address how their proposed summer research will lead to an improved proposal with regard to the above categories. Recipients will undertake such activities as (but not limited to): initial field work, preliminary data collection, travel related to research (i.e. preliminary visits to archives, special collections, museums, and/or historic sites), supplementary training in methods or techniques, or specialized language instruction. *This program does not support conference attendance.*

**Eligibility**

- Students must be level II, exceptions will be made for students in programs where a formal dissertation prospectus/proposal is not submitted for approval until after advancing to level III. Such level III students will only be eligible if they have not officially submitted a prospectus/proposal to their program.
- Please note that current CUNY guidelines restrict the distribution of funds for travel outside of the state unless the recipient has received prior approval for their travel plans. While we maintain hope that conditions will improve by the summer, any award winner who proposes either domestic or international travel will need to attain permission for their trip prior to being able to access these grant funds. For more information see:  
<https://www.cuny.edu/about/administration/offices/ehsrm/heathandsafety/travel/>
- Students who have received GC Dissertation Fellowships are not eligible.

**Each application must include the following:**

- 1) Cover Sheet (attached).
- 2) Research Proposal that includes the following sections:
  - a. Describe what you currently expect will be the topic, research question(s), supportive literature, methods of investigation, approach to data analysis, and theoretical contribution of your proposed dissertation project (up to 1,200 words).
  - b. List up to 20 research publications that have most significantly informed the formulation of your research topic, questions, theories, and methods.
  - c. What are your plans for summer research? (up to 500 words) Please include: a justification for your choice or research site(s) and/or sources of data and information; a brief description of your anticipated approaches to investigation; a timeline; and any local professional contacts you might have made.
  - d. Describe how you think this summer research will assist you in developing your dissertation proposal and preparing for long term dissertation research. (up to 250 words)
  - e. *Optional:* If your proposal involves travel, please indicate your contingency plans for conducting your research if travel is not permitted (up to 250 words).

Note: if you have previously conducted exploratory research at any of your proposed research site(s) or on a related topic, please explain how the additional research proposed will enable you to build upon your past experience.
- 3) Two-page curriculum vitae.
- 4) Current Graduate Center transcript. (Students may submit the unofficial student copy that can be printed from CUNYFirst.)
- 5) One letter of reference to be submitted electronically by your adviser or faculty mentor (see instructions below).

Recipients of these fellowships must agree to the following conditions as part of their acceptance of the award:

1. Attend a one-hour proposal writing workshop in May 2021.
2. Write a one-page summary of their summer research work (due by 23 August 2021).
3. If conditions permit, winners are expected to provide a 7-10 minute public presentation of their work at a doctoral student research conference to be held at the Graduate Center early in the Fall 2021 semester; if public health guidelines make this conference logistically impossible this event may be held online.
4. Attend a grant writing workshop at the Graduate Center in the 2021-22 academic year designed to assist you in applying for future grants and fellowships (multiple sessions of the workshop will be held in order to accommodate potential scheduling conflicts).

5. Agree to have some version of their summer work potentially featured on a Student Research Collaborative webpage currently under construction by the Early Research Initiative Research Collaborative.

**Instructions for submitting your application:**

- 1) Combine your cover sheet, research proposal, *curriculum vitae*, and transcript into a **SINGLE** file (either as a pdf document or a word document).

Use the following format when naming your document:

**Last Name, First Name, Program**

- 2) Email the file as an email attachment to [fellowshipapps@gc.cuny.edu](mailto:fellowshipapps@gc.cuny.edu)
- 3) Complete the [online part of the application](#) through the following form:

[Provost's Pre-Dissertation Research Award](#)

**Instructions for Faculty Recommenders**

- 1) Prepare your reference letter as a regular word or pdf document.

Please use the following format when naming your document:

**Student Last Name, First Name**

- 2) Email the file as an email attachment to [fellowshipapps@gc.cuny.edu](mailto:fellowshipapps@gc.cuny.edu)

If you have questions, please contact Rachel Sponzo at [rsponzo@gc.cuny.edu](mailto:rsponzo@gc.cuny.edu).

CUNY Graduate Center  
Office of the Provost  
Pre-Dissertation Research Funding

**2021 Provost's Pre-Dissertation Summer Research Grants  
Application Cover Sheet**

**Name:**

**CUNYfirst ID number:**

**Doctoral Program:**

**Doctoral Level (II or III):**

**Have you submitted a proposal/prospectus to your program for approval?** \_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_ No

**Title of Proposal:**

**Name of Adviser who will write a letter of recommendation:**

**Have you received a Provost's Summer Research Award in the past?** \_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_ No  
If yes, for what years? \_\_\_ 2016 \_\_\_ 2017 \_\_\_ 2018 \_\_\_ 2019 \_\_\_ 2020