

6th Year & Beyond Funding Workshop

Sept. 16, 2016 2pm

NOTES

Student Speakers

[Kaitlin Mondello](#) & [Erin Spampinato](#), 6th-year students (Organizers)

We wanted to organize this forum to help everyone, no matter what year, to begin thinking about funding if they have not already. While many of us hope to finish within the 5 year fellowship packages, this is often not realistic as additional years are needed for both completion and the job market. When we began this process at the beginning of our year five, we realized that we needed to have a better plan in place and that there are many options open to us both inside and outside of CUNY, but that it was up to us to find these resources. This forum is an attempt to help consolidate some of that information.

- Look at applications a year in advance at least (Application season is late summer/early fall for the NEXT academic year)
- Cultivate relationships with both your peers to keep you on track and people who are ahead of you in the process who can help you
- Have a thick skin--the process is capricious

Madison Priest, 6th-year student, [Biography Diss. Fell.](#) (Apply through [Diss. Fell.](#))

- It is helpful to have to articulate your project in several different ways through the applications process
- Know the difference between a “dissertation fellowship” and a “dissertation completion fellowship”: the latter will require you to complete the project in one year and you cannot hold multiple completion fellowships

Rebecca Fullan, 6th-year student, [ITF](#)

- The program requirements get more amorphous as you move into the dissertation
- Be wide, deep and generous in your assessment of your skills. You have done many things in teaching. [This helped get the [ITF](#) even without knowledge of coding]
- Discuss your need for funding as much as possible with others

Yair Solan, 7th-year student, [Diss. Fell.](#)

- Apply multiple times for things - be persistent
- Think about your imagined reader for [GC Dissertation Fellowships](#) (someone in the Humanities, but not necessarily in English)
- Tweak your prospectus for this with an eye toward what might be broadly interesting
- Discuss any archives you need to visit or will visit
- Make sure to include your research plan and schedule

Erin Garrow, 7th-year student, NTA, [Career Planning Office](#)

- Make sure you have an action plan
- Use this process for professional development
- Search back through your e-mails, especially those from [Nancy Silverman](#), to see fellowships and deadlines
- Talk to as many people as possible about needing funding & be persistent

Administrator and Faculty Speakers

[Rachel Sponzo](#), Associate Director of Student Research Fellowships, [Office of the Provost](#)

- Look for external funding in years 2-4 because you can “bank” your fellowship (defer) to give you extra time/funding later
- Consider applying for the [Fulbright](#) if you do any work that requires international travel
- The [GC Dissertation Fellowship](#) deadline is in mid-Jan.; make sure to request your advisor’s letter well in advance of the long holiday break (they receive about 300 of these per year with 1/5 to 1/10 being funded)
- Check your GC email regularly
- Share your proposals/applications with faculty and peers
- Consider applying for the [ACLS Mellon](#) and the [Council for European Studies Fellowships](#)

[Anne Ellis](#), Director of Graduate Assistant Programs, [Office of the Provost](#)

- [WAC](#) applications are usually Dec./Jan. and it is not clear how many WAC at larges will be needed
- You need to be nominated by the department for WAC at large
- Be flexible with your placement, but you can say where you couldn’t go
- You will be asked if you would take the placement before your application is forwarded to the school

[Lisa Rhody](#), Deputy Director of [Digital Initiatives](#) (see also [the slideshow](#))

- Consider the Digital Praxis (IDS 81620) course as a way to get started or to expand the range of types of scholarship you may be interested in creating.
- Graduate students are not eligible for [NEH Office of Digital Humanities](#) Grants on their own, but may work with a faculty member who could serve as the grant PI.
- Come to the [ITP Digital Project Laboratory](#) for scholarly project development. (Refine that 3 minute “elevator speech.”)
- [Provost’s Digital Innovation Grants](#) have an open CFP until October 20th. These are grants to get your project started and could lead to future funding.
- Come to office hours in the [Digital Scholarship Lab](#), Room 7414 Tuesdays 2-4 PM and Python Users’ Group on Wednesdays 12-2 PM for “drop in” help with a project.

- Apply to the [Digital Research Institute](#), Jan. 17-20, 2016. (Applications will be available in October.)
- When applying for any type of grant, request faculty letters 30 days in advance and provide: a link to the CFP, your cv, a copy of your own letter (even in draft form), and a draft copy of your application materials (grant narrative, application form, etc.). You can even suggest that your advisor/faculty member write to a specific aspect of your work that you feel is important to the application review committee.
- Consider applying to the [New Media Lab's Stipends and Dissertation Award](#).

[Duncan Faherty](#), Director, [Early Research Initiative](#)

- Apply for what is most relevant to your project
- Look at the library's research guide -it has links to other guides as well: <http://libguides.gc.cuny.edu/grants>
- [Shawn Smith](#) in the library can help with the above database and others
- Survey results are that 60% of students (who took the survey) say that they have not looked at external funding
- Consider summer fellowships
- Selling yourself is something you need to do on the job market and funding applications allow you to practice this
- Get advice from faculty who are not as close to your project too
- Have a realistic strategy and timeline

[Jennifer Furlong](#), Director, [Office of Career Planning and Professional Development](#)

- Keep in mind that the academic job market is a multi-year process
- Look at applying to the [TLC](#) and the [Futures Initiative](#)
- Some fellowships also have work responsibilities separate from your academic work
- Focus on finishing the dissertation rather than perfecting it
- External fellowships boost your CV
- Small money builds to more money so apply for smaller grants too
- Master the sophisticated prose that is required to explain your project (this is a genre); show how your project is part of your larger research agenda
- [Edith Gonzalez](#) can help with external funding - she has office hours Thurs. afternoons
- Explain why your work is new and exciting and important to a larger audience
- Practice this in years 3&4 by applying for grants

[Nancy Silverman](#), Assistant Program Officer/Academic Program Coordinator

- Look at fellowships that are curatorial or activist if that relates to your work in some way
- Look for fellowships for your demographic groups
- Apply for the department fellowships and the teaching prize (that often has very few applications)

Q&A

- You can write in a stipend for yourself into a grant proposal - consider using the non-teaching adjunct rate per hour as a benchmark: \$40/hour
- [Edith Gonzalez](#) can help with making budgets for applications - she is hosting an [upcoming grant workshop](#)
- If you are traveling abroad and need to make budget for that, you can use the [State Department per diem info.](#) about costs of living in certain places
- You don't need to mention that you will use the money for teaching relief

Also:

- Danica Savonick has put together a [Google Doc](#) on fellowships and grants. The document is divided into two main categories (“Yearlong Fellowships” and “Short Term Grants & Fellowships”).
- We should try to collect and make available successful grant and fellowship applications in our dept.