

# 2017 Mellon-Wisconsin Fellowship Application Process

<https://scholarships.wisc.edu/StudentApp>

**Background:** The Mellon Foundation in partnership with the State of Wisconsin provides funding to the College of Letters and Science for this initiative. The funds represent an ongoing commitment to support graduate students in the humanities and humanistic social sciences. This fellowship competition is administered by the Graduate School.

**Eligibility:** International and domestic students, including permanent residents and refugees, may all apply for these fellowships. In addition, students must meet all of the following criteria to be eligible to apply for a Mellon-Wisconsin Summer Fellowship:

1. be enrolled in a PhD program located within the College of Letters and Science (students in MFA or DMA programs are not eligible);
2. be engaged in dissertation research in the humanities or humanistic social sciences. If applicants are unsure about whether their research qualifies, they should consult with their research advisor;
3. have achieved dissertator status by the beginning of Fall 2016; and
4. be in the *final stages of writing their dissertations*; fellowship recipients are expected to complete their dissertations by the end of Summer 2018.

**Benefits and Responsibilities:** The Mellon-Wisconsin Fellowships provide three months of summer fellowship support to allow students to work full-time on their dissertations. While students may apply multiple times, they may receive this support only once. The summer fellowship stipend total will be \$6,768 (\$2,256/month) covering the period June 1, 2017 to August 31, 2017. Fellowship winners must enroll for three research credits during the 8-week summer term, and advisors must agree to be minimally available for fellows. Summer tuition and segregated fees will be covered by the Graduate School; however, eligibility for summer health insurance is not provided. Because the purpose of the fellowship award is to allow students to focus full-time on their dissertation preparation, additional campus employment during the fellowship period will not be permitted.

**Application Deadline:** Noon (sharp) on Wednesday, February 22nd, 2017. Please note that (even minimally) late submissions will not be accepted.

**Review Process and Award Information:** Mellon-Wisconsin Summer Fellowships are highly competitive. All completed applications will be read thoroughly by a review committee comprised of L&S faculty members. Applications will be rated based on academic merit, advisor support, and critical need. In 2017, the Graduate School expects to make 60 awards. You will be notified of your award status by Monday, March 20, 2017 at the latest. Decisions of the committee are final.

**Application Process:** The application process is managed through an online system. A completed application includes: 1) a letter of recommendation from your advisor, 2) information requested in the online system, and 3) a PDF file of your CV. The online application system allows you to start your application and return to update it any time before the deadline.

1. Letter of recommendation from your advisor (COMPLETE THESE STEPS AT LEAST TWO WEEKS BEFORE THE DEADLINE):
  - a) Ask your advisor to prepare a letter of recommendation for this fellowship. At a minimum, the letter should include the following information: 1) your academic merit, 2) your need for the summer fellowship support, and 3) the timeline for completion of your dissertation.
  - b) Go to the online application system and click the “Request a Letter of Recommendation from My Advisor” button. Your advisor will be sent an email with a link to the on-line system where s/he can upload the letter of recommendation. DO NOT WAIT UNTIL THE LAST MINUTE TO REQUEST THIS LETTER, as your advisor likely will not have sufficient time to prepare and upload a quality recommendation.
2. Complete the online application in which you will be asked to provide the following information:
  - a) your graduate program;
  - b) the first and last name of your advisor;
  - c) your dissertation title;
  - d) a dissertation abstract (limit of 2,000 characters, including spaces);
  - e) a description of your critical need for the fellowship (limit of 2,000 characters, including spaces);
  - f) an account of your specific goals/objectives for summer work if awarded the fellowship (limit of 1,000 characters, including spaces); and
  - g) a narrative timeline for completion of your dissertation, including how much you have already written and when you expect to complete various dissertation milestones (limit of 1,000 characters, including spaces).
3. Upload a copy of your CV. Please include in the CV information about the on-campus funding (graduate assistantships, fellowships, reader/grader positions) you have received during your graduate studies at UW-Madison.

**Questions:** Questions can be directed to the UW-Madison Graduate School’s Office of Fellowships and Funding Resources ([offr@grad.wisc.edu](mailto:offr@grad.wisc.edu)).