

FAQ about Graduate School and Department Dissertation Fellowships

Q: What are the types of fellowships offered by the Graduate School?

A: The main fellowships that students in English and Comparative Literature are eligible for are the dissertation completion fellowships (year-long and spring semester) and the off-campus dissertation fellowship (to support students to conduct research away from UNC Chapel Hill). A few of the off-campus dissertation fellowships are specific by region – to support research in Germany or France for example.

Q: What are the types of fellowships offered by the Department?

A: The English and Comparative Literature department offers semester long fellowships for Fall, Summer, and Spring. Traditionally the Department has been able to offer 2-3 fellowships per semester.

Q: What are the deadlines for the fellowships offered in the Graduate School?

A: Fall deadlines are usually in early October for fellowships in the Spring. Spring deadlines are usually in early March for fellowships in Summer and Fall. Please check the Graduate School website for the exact dates of these deadlines. You will also receive email messages about these deadlines from the Graduate School and the DGS office.

Q: What are the deadlines for the fellowships offered in the Department?

A: To be considered for a Spring fellowship, the deadline will be the previous semester, in early October. To be considered for either a Summer or Fall fellowship, the deadline will be the previous semester, in early March. Notifications will be sent through the graduate list serv. If you do not see an announcement by mid-September or mid-February, you should contact the DGS office immediately.

Q: Can I hold both a Graduate fellowship and a Department fellowship in the same semester?

A: No. If you have received a Department fellowship and then learn you have received a Graduate School fellowship in the same semester, you must choose to take one over the other. It is possible for you to have a Graduate School fellowship and then apply for a Department fellowship the following semester. It is also possible for you to hold a

summer fellowship through either the Graduate School or Department and also hold a fellowship (either Graduate School or Department) for the following Fall semester.

Q: Who is eligible to apply for the Department fellowship—are they open to all PhD students in English and Comparative Literature?

A: Yes—there is neither a cap or quota for applications in ENGL and CMPL. All PhD students in ENGL and CMPL able to apply for Department fellowships, but applicants must be post-prospectus defense and priority will be given to students who are further along in writing their dissertations since the Department fellowship is a dissertation completion fellowship designed to give students relief from teaching so that they can concentrate on writing their dissertations.

Q: Can I hold another job or position on campus while holding either a Graduate School or Department fellowship?

A: The Graduate School requires you to devote yourself to your dissertation and thus you are not allowed to work a job on campus. The Department has made exceptions in the past for students who have either a financial or professional need to keep their non-Department employment. Teaching contracts will not be given to students who hold either a Graduate School or Department fellowship. If you wish to continue employment (non-teaching) outside of the Department while holding a Department fellowship, you should speak with the DGS.

Q: How are the nominees chosen for the Graduate School fellowships?

A: The Chair's Advisory Committee, comprised of 3-5 tenure ladder faculty, will read the applications and select nominees that will be forwarded for consideration in the larger pool of Graduate School applicants. All of the Graduate School fellowships that provide a semester or year long fellowship are open to students who are post-prospectus defense.

Q: What are the criteria used to select students for the Department fellowships?

The Department fellowships are designed to be dissertation completion fellowships. Traditionally preference has been given to students who have completed a fair amount of their dissertations, though any student who is post-prospectus is eligible to apply and should apply since students can reapply for the following semester if they are not successful in receiving a Department fellowship.

Q: What are the materials I will need to apply for Graduate and Department fellowships?

A: The materials you need for both the Graduate and Department fellowships will be similar, though you may need 2 letters of recommendation for certain Graduate School fellowships (please follow their guidelines) and just one for the Department fellowship. You will need a letter of application, a description of your dissertation project, your c.v., and in the case of the Graduate School, you may need to explain your justification for an off-campus dissertation fellowship. Materials for the Graduate School fellowships will need to be uploaded to the Graduate School website, and you should follow those directions. Materials for the Department fellowship should be collated into a single word document and sent to the appropriate email address on the instructions provided by the DGS.

Q: When should I ask my dissertation director and/or other committee members for a letter of recommendation?

A: If you plan to apply for a fellowship, you should ask your advisor or committee members for a letter at the beginning of the semester. It is always best to give your letter writers at least a month (if not longer) to write a letter.