Graduate Dean’s Dissertation Fellowship

Purpose

The Graduate Dean’s Dissertation Fellowship (GDDF) program is intended for students in their final semester/term of graduate school who are planning to pursue teaching and research appointments soon after the end of their dissertation semester/term. This award should help enhance the awardees qualifications as candidates for university faculty teaching and research appointments.

Eligibility Requirements & Standards

- The program is open to all doctoral candidates who are advanced to candidacy at the time of completing their application, and who are **one semester/term away from completion of their degree**.
- All doctoral graduate students are eligible for this award regardless of United States citizenship.
- GPA 3.0 or above and enrolled in 12 units during the disbursement of the award.
- A student who has previously received funding for completing their dissertation work is ineligible to receive a GDDF.
- Preference will be given to applicants who have progressed according to their program’s expected time-to-degree.
- Award recipients are expected to file their dissertation by the end of the award period.
- Fellows who have not filed their dissertations by the end of the award period are **NOT eligible for further financial support from the Graduate Division**.
- Fellows are prohibited from being employed during the award period.

Financial Support

- Up to two awards will be made each semester/term.
- Recipients will receive a fellowship as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Term</th>
<th>Fellowship</th>
<th>Tuition &amp; Fees</th>
<th>Campus Based Fees</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Fall</td>
<td>$2,750/mo for 4-mo</td>
<td>Included</td>
<td>Not Included</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spring</td>
<td>$2,750/mo for 4-mo</td>
<td>Included</td>
<td>Not Included</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Summer*</td>
<td>$8,250 lump-sum for 3-mo</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*The summer award in combination with any other form of summer support cannot exceed $10,000.

Student Loan Impact

- Per federal guidelines, all fellowship and tuition support is taken into consideration when determining student loan eligibility. If you will receive federal student loans during the same academic year as this award, please note that this award could, and most likely will, reduce your student loan eligibility.
Application Procedures

- Students should only apply for this fellowship in the semester/term directly prior to their final semester/term.
- This application is open to all students who meet the eligibility criteria. Students must complete the online application by the deadline. A semester/term based application is available at https://gradopportunities.ucmerced.edu/grad. The application includes the following:
  - Curriculum vita (CV)
  - Unofficial UCM transcript, including current semester.
  - Dissertation Prospectus (maximum 4 pages, double-spaced) - Prospectus should be written for a general academic audience, i.e. a faculty reviewer who does not necessarily have expertise in the specific area of study.
  - Timeline - A timeline of expected progress for completion of the dissertation, plus a statement of intent regarding the applicant’s career goals after receiving the doctoral degree.
  - Letters of Recommendation - Faculty advisor name and email must be provided under the Letters of Recommendation tab on the online application form. Advisors will receive an email request for a letter of support for the applicant. The letter of support should include an assessment of the candidate’s merits in comparison with other students at the same stage in their graduate careers. Comments should include such indicators as the student’s demonstrated academic and scholarly competence, the length of time from the first quarter of enrollment to advancement to candidacy, and feasibility of completing the dissertation within the award semester/term. Please note that the letter of support will go to the Graduate Division and the Graduate Council (GC), and will not be visible to the applicant. Advisors must submit letters no later than five days after the application closes.

Review Procedures

- This fellowship will follow a multiple step review process that considers all applicants. Review criteria will include adherence to the fellowship guidelines, intellectual merits of the proposal, and the academic qualifications of the applicant.
  - First Review - The review will begin with each Graduate Group nominating and ranking their top applicant for the given semester/term. Nominations must include a brief narrative of the process and criteria that the graduate group used to choose nominees. Nominations without this narrative will not be considered. For each nominee, the faculty advisor must be listed, along with 3-4 sentences highlighting the nominee’s qualifications for the non-expert reviewer.
  - Second Review - The Graduate Council will then review the nominations made by each Graduate Group and make recommendations to the Graduate Division.
  - Third Review - Final award decisions will be made by the Graduate Dean.

Deadlines

- Summer Application Due – January 15, 2016 by 5pm
- Letters of Recommendation Due – January 20, 2016 by 5pm
Quick Applicant Checklist

☐ Curriculum vitae (CV)
☐ Unofficial UCM transcript
☐ Prospectus
☐ Timeline
☐ Letters of Recommendation