



## Graduate Dean's Dissertation Year Fellowship

### Purpose

With a generous gift from John Loll and Jane Bielke-Loll, who have a strong passion for education and understand its importance to transform lives, the Graduate Dean is able to offer a one-time dissertation year fellowship for the academic year 2017-18. This fellowship is intended to support an outstanding graduate student during their final year of graduate study. The selected fellow will have the ability to focus solely on completing his or her research and degree without the added time commitment of teaching or assistantship duties. Preference will be given to applicants from the School of Social Sciences, Humanities and Arts.

### Eligibility Requirements & Standards

- This opportunity is open to all doctoral candidates who are advanced to candidacy at the time of completing their application, and **who will be entering their final year in AY 2017-18.**
- All doctoral graduate students are eligible for this award regardless of United States citizenship.
- Awardees must have a GPA of 3.0 or above and be 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 this fellowship.
- Preference will be given to applicants from the **School of Social Sciences, Humanities and Arts.**
- 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 any further financial support from the Graduate Division.**
- Fellows are prohibited from being employed during the award period.
- Students who applied for the AY 2017-18 President's Dissertation Year Fellowship will automatically be considered for this fellowship and need not submit another application.

### Financial Support

- The awardee will receive a fellowship for \$21,000, paid over a 9-month academic year period, plus payment of Graduate Fees (Resident Tuition, Student Services Fee, and Health Services Fee), excluding Campus Based Fees.

### 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

- This application is open to all students who meet the eligibility criteria. All PDY dissertation year

applications will also be considered for the Graduate Dean's Dissertation Year (GDDY) Fellowship (although they will be awarded as separate dissertation awards). Faculty advisors are encouraged to invite eligible students to apply on the basis of academic merit.

- Students must complete the online dissertation year application by **Wednesday, February 22, 2017 by 5pm**. The application is available at <https://gradopportunities.ucmerced.edu/grad>. The application includes the following:
  - Curriculum vitae (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. The statement should be written for faculty members from all disciplines.
  - Declare Estimated Financial Resources - Complete the financial resources section on the application indicating all sources of known or estimated financial support the applicant will receive during the award year. The name, type and amount of support should be included for each known or estimated source. Also include a list of known or estimated financial obligations.
  - 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. Please note that the letter of support will not be visible to 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 year. Advisors must submit letters no later than **Tuesday, February 28, 2017 by 5pm**.

## 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 two applicants.
  - Second Review – A committee will then review the nominations made by each Graduate Group and make recommendations to the Graduate Dean.
  - Third Review - Final award decisions will be made by the Graduate Dean.