

## External Fellowships in the Social Sciences and Humanities

### Grant Writing Tips

- Target several diverse research archives
- The bigger the grant, the less jargon you want in your application
- “We come to the PhD already knowing what a good grant needs: a good hook, storytelling, and a project overview”
- Answer this question in your application: how does your project advance knowledge?
- Be assertive but generous. Use phrases like “building upon,” and “by looking at these sources, I will show”
- Committees want to know that project is doable, and that you are the person to do it
- Your project should not be a fantasy but based in concrete archival resources
- Ending paragraph should include information about where you will go, intellectual connections made within your project
- Plan in advance—look at application portals in advance for last-minute details
- Find winning proposal and model your proposal on it
- Importance of formatting and tone
- Grad Café as resource
- Research granting institution, mission statement, types of projects sought
- Find faculty support not only for letters of recommendation but also for application guidance
- Have a reader outside your field review application
- Plan ahead
- Application format: lead with storytelling, introduce research inquiry, then project intro
- Letters of recommendation should be extremely personal and specific to your project
- Fellowship committees want to fund people with potential rather than projects with potential—people doing unexpected things
- Choose recommenders who are well acquainted with your project and can argue for its importance
- Remind recommenders of four or five pointed pieces of praise they have given you in the past to strengthen letters
- First and second year students who feel they lack close relationships with faculty should focus on developing rapport and relationships with professors to aid in this process
- Draw on the diverse parts of your training to describe why you are uniquely qualified to do research

### Grant Benefits

- Independence from university, freedom to work outside university
- Process of applying helps to define project and develop work completion plan
- Professionalization and connection—good networking opportunities

### Important Resource

UCLA GRAPES: Graduate & Postdoctoral Extramural Support  
<http://www.gdnet.ucla.edu/grpinst.htm>