

VERSION 2.2
FALL 2023



GRADUATE FELLOWSHIP TOOLKIT:
HUMANITIES & SOCIAL SCIENCES

OFFICE OF NATIONAL SCHOLARSHIPS & FELLOWSHIPS

UConn | UNIVERSITY OF
CONNECTICUT

FELLOWSHIP TOOLKIT: HUMANITIES & SOCIAL SCIENCES

CONTENTS

1. Fellowships & Scholarships v. Grants
2. Major Foundations
3. The Fellowship Search
4. Build Your Support Team
5. Application Timeline
6. Application Tips
7. Resources

1. FELLOWSHIPS & SCHOLARSHIPS V. GRANTS

WHAT'S THE DIFFERENCE?

What kind of funding do you need to accomplish your goals? Are you looking for money to cover tuition and fees? Are you seeking to conduct research abroad? Do you need to cover your living expenses while you finish your dissertation? How far along are you in your degree program? What is your specific field (or subfield)? Answers to questions like these can determine what kind of funding – if any – you may be eligible for. The first step is to understand the lingo:

The terms fellowship and scholarship are often interchangeable. Although the word “scholarship” is used more frequently to describe undergraduate funding and the word “fellowship” more often refers to graduate or professional funding, there are many exceptions to this tendency. In either case, fellowships and scholarships fund *people*, students and early career professionals. Grants, on the other hand, typically fund *projects*. In other words, a fellowship or scholarship is an investment in you as a scholar, while a grant supports specifically the work you propose to do. In your career as a graduate student, you might find yourself applying for both kinds of awards. This toolkit is designed mainly to address applicants for fellowships and scholarships, although some of our advice might apply to grant applications, particularly those to which an individual (as opposed to an institution) might apply, like the U.S. Student Fulbright Grant, for example.

“INTERNAL” AND “EXTERNAL” FUNDING

Another distinction to be aware of is between internal and external funding sources. Internal funding, refers to UConn money. The Graduate School, departments, colleges and programs may receive money from the University budget, from the Foundation or other private donors to disburse in the form of scholarships, fellowships or grants. They may hold their own competitions to determine the recipients of these funds or have a standard procedure for distributing the money. Always check with your Department Head or Director of Graduate Studies to learn about what additional funding might be available to you.

UConn’s [Humanities Institute](#) and [Human Rights Institute](#) also support graduate students in the humanities and social sciences; be sure to check out their fellowships and awards, deadlines and procedures.

This toolkit will focus mostly on “external” funding. External funding refers to money outside of the University that can be applied to scholarly endeavors. Sometimes this money can be applied to your work on site in graduate school, but sometimes the funding is attached to an off-site residential program or research at a specific archive or location.

GRANTS

Big institutional grant applications at the University of Connecticut are handled by the Sponsored Program Services (SPS) in the [Office of the Vice President for Research](#) (located in Whetten Bldg. on the Storrs campus). SPS manages applications for limited submission, government and private grant competitions, external sources that fund millions of dollars of research at UConn. They also ensure that strict regulations and institutional practices are followed in securing and utilizing grant resources. These resources may be used to support studies, labs and even graduate or undergraduate assistants working for the Principal Investigator (PI) of a particular project. As a graduate student, you may be the mastermind of your own project, but may not qualify as a PI for a government grant, in which case, your faculty mentor might serve in that role for you, if your project qualifies for such an award.

A great way to learn about grants in your field is through your faculty and their experiences applying for grants. You may find that scholars in the humanities and social sciences quickly bemoan the fact that the kind of large multi-million dollar government grants sometimes available in the sciences are quite scarce (if non-existent) in other disciplines. You are more likely to find funding through private foundations and other non-profit organizations. SPS hosts useful [search tools](#), like the [PIVOT Database](#) that includes grant funding (as well as fellowship opportunities) for graduate students.

The College of Liberal Arts and Sciences’ Business Services Center (in the Austin Bldg. on the Storrs Campus) also provides [Grants Management Services](#) at both pre-award and post-award stage. CLAS grants managers assist faculty, postdocs and graduate students who are applying for and receiving grant funding for their research. They can offer advice of preparing applications and help navigate the submission process. They work with SPS as necessary to ensure compliance. Likewise, the [Office of National Scholarships & Fellowships](#) (ONSF, located in the Rowe Bldg. on the Storrs campus), will assist graduate students and postdocs with some grant-like applications, such as Fulbright and the Fulbright-Hays DDRA, that are designed specifically for students (see “Fulbright,” section 2). If you’re not sure where to start, ONSF can also help point you in the right direction!

MORE THAN FINANCIAL AID

Merit fellowships and scholarships may fund your education, but at the graduate level especially they are also a mark of distinction. Securing a well-known award can launch a career and ease the transition from graduate school to an academic appointment. That said, *not* winning one of these awards doesn’t necessarily mean you are in the wrong profession. You can do everything right, and still not win.



All this is to say that fellowships and scholarships for advanced study are not the same as “getting financial aid.” Indeed, you may also be relying on loans and other sources of need-based aid. You may be relying on a teaching, research or graduate assistantship to waive your tuition and ensure a steady supply of mac and cheese. Graduate school, especially for those who come out of salaried professional

lives, can be financially trying and risky. Chances are the hard work will pay off intellectually, but will it pay the bills? Many graduate students are frustrated that there just aren't more fellowships and scholarships to support all the individuals who want to participate in advanced studies. This is especially the case at the master's level, where very few external awards exist for the humanities and social sciences. In these disciplines, the funding tends to be reserved for later-career graduate students, usually ABD ("all but dissertation") doctoral candidates. What's a master's student to do?

Securing an external fellowship or scholarship should never be "Plan A" when financing your graduate education. You need a more reliable plan: savings, loans, assistantships, other employment, etc.

Likewise, being offered an internal fellowship from a school may prompt your decision to attend, but this good fortune should not keep you from applying for external awards, which lend prestige and additional support to your degree program. In fact, demonstrating that you are already funded makes you MORE competitive for these external awards. It may not seem "fair" when awards pile up around the same person. But, think about it: if already-funded strong candidates receive additional external funding, that could free-up internal funding for graduate students who need more time to develop as a scholars. If you are a Harriott, Crandall, or Jorgensen Fellow, or have received other department support, apply now!

In other words, you need to be a strong candidate *before* you apply for an external graduate fellowship, regardless of financial need. Selection criteria varies from award to award, but generally, strong candidates have high GPAs & test scores, a rigorous academic plan, strong letters of support, publications and/or presentations and sometimes teaching and/or research experience, language training, mentoring experience and other involvement. If you are uncertain about your qualifications, you should seek advice from your faculty, ONSF or other professionals in your field. You may find you need to bolster some credentials before you apply, but don't self-eliminate too early. Some competitions allow you to apply multiple times. A first shot can sometimes hit the mark or, at the very least, offer experience on how to do better next time.

WHY BOTHER?

Academics in the humanities and social sciences need a thick skin in a current climate that by all measures undervalues their contributions to society. Science, technology, engineering and mathematics appear to be a national priorities when you add up available research dollars; however, even STEM scholars are feeling the pressures of cuts to publicly-funded programs like the National Science Foundation. Debates about the vital importance of humanities and social science research are forming in response to these across-the-board cuts and the climate will hopefully improve as scholars continue to defend their role in the advancement of our society. Philosophically, facing the politics and economics of academic research can be an important lesson in humility and integrity.

The bad news is that your passion for your subject area may not be shared by those who guard scarce resources. You might find that your specific degree program, thesis, dissertation project or field of study is not eligible for any award at this time. Or you may need to make a deliberate case as to why your interest is, in fact, part of their agenda.

The good news is that learning how to defend the value of your pursuits as you think about and apply for fellowships can be enormously rewarding and can lead to long-term gains, even if immediate gains seem unavailable. In other words, the pursuit for funding can assist you in your thinking as a scholar, demanding that you articulate your ideas with care and precision in ways that a wide audience can appreciate your vision and potential. If you are not awarded a fellowship, you have still gained insight into your own topic and purpose. Such insight can be enormously helpful as you look ahead to your career, to job interviews and future funding opportunities. Students applying for fellowships find that

the process can improve an abstract, bibliography or other materials required for degree completion. After defending a project for a major award, you might feel more secure as you face your actual dissertation defense.

Applying for fellowships is one way of entering your profession, the conversations that are current and contentious, and your experience may not always be positive, but should always be instructive. Remember that you have zero chance of winning what could be a career-defining award if you don't apply. If you don't win, however, that doesn't mean you can't move your research forward in other ways. Always get feedback from fellowship foundations, if possible, and *never* take rejection personally. Move forward knowing that you are all the more prepared for the next opportunity. (It might be time to invest in some inspirational wall art.)



2. MAJOR FOUNDATIONS

FOUNDATIONS

Private foundations are a key source of funding for scholarship in the humanities and social sciences. Below is a list of *some* of the major players in this arena. Knowing the foundations that support your field can be especially valuable as new opportunities arise or as you get more involved in your profession. For a comprehensive listing, SPS subscribes to an online Foundation Directory: <https://guides.lib.uconn.edu/grants/FDO>.

- American Anthropological Association Minority Dissertation Fellowship
- American Association of University Women (AAUW)
- American Council of Learned Societies (ACLS)
 - Mellon Fellowship for Dissertation Completion
 - various postdoctoral fellowships
- American Historical Association (AHA) Research Grants
- American Philosophical Society
- American Political Science Association (APSA) Minority Fellowships
- American Psychological Association (APA)
- American Sociological Association (ASA) Minority Fellowships
- Charlotte W. Newcombe Doctoral Dissertation Fellowships
 - study of ethical or religious values in humanities and social sciences
- Council for European Studies (CES)
 - Mellon-CES Dissertation Completion Fellowships in European Studies
 - Pre-Dissertation Completion Fellowships
- DAAD (German Academic Exchange Service) Graduate Research Grants, Fellowships & Postdoctoral Fellowships
- Folger Shakespeare Library Postdoctoral Fellowships
- Ford Foundation Diversity Predoctoral, Dissertation and Postdoctoral Fellowships
- Foreign Language and Area Studies (FLAS) Fellowships
- Fulbright (US Student Grants & English Teaching Assistantships, Public Policy Fellowships)
- Fulbright-Fogarty Fellowships in Public Health
- Fulbright-Hays Doctoral Dissertation Research Abroad Fellowships

- Henry Luce Foundation Scholars Program for Study in Asia
- Josephine de Karman Dissertation Fellowships
- Mellon Postdoctoral Fellowships (various institutions)
- National Science Foundation (NSF)
 - Graduate Research Fellowship Program (GRFP)
 - Graduate Research Opportunities Worldwide (GROW) – *restricted to NSF-GRF recipients*
 - Social, Behavioral & Economic Sciences (SBE) Postdoctoral Research Fellowship
- NSEP - David L. Boren Graduate Fellowships
 - These fund the study of critical languages
- Paul & Daisy Soros Fellowships for New Americans
- Smith Richardson Foundation - World Politics and Statecraft Fellowship
- Smithsonian Institute Predoctoral, Dissertation & Postdoctoral Fellowships
- Social Science Research Council (SSRC)
 - Data Fluencies Dissertation Grants
 - Social Sciences in Africa Fellowships
- US Department of State – Rangel and Pickering International Affairs Graduate Fellowships
- US Office of Personnel Management (OPM) - Presidential Management Fellows
- UNESCO Graduate Fellowships
- USAID - Donald M. Payne International Development Graduate Fellowship
- Wenner-Gren Foundation for Anthropological Research - Dissertation Fieldwork Grants
- Woodrow Wilson National Fellowship Foundation - Pickering Graduate Foreign Affairs Fellowship
- Yivo Institute for Jewish Research - Fellowships

WORKING WITH FOUNDATIONS

When you apply for a fellowship you are bound to have questions. ONSF and your primary faculty mentors can help with some of these questions, but the best resource is the foundation itself. They are the ultimate arbiters when it comes to competition rules and procedures. Do not hesitate to contact a helpline or foundation directly if you are unclear about any part of the application process. Remember, the people answering the phone are rarely (if ever) part of a review committee. And they are always eager to help candidates submit their applications correctly and in full – it makes their job easier! Pick up the phone, if there is a number; otherwise, email response rates vary by foundation. Don't be afraid to reach out multiple times if you need to.

FULBRIGHT & FULBRIGHT-HAYS DDRA



Most individual graduate fellowships do not require an institutional endorsement or campus process. Fulbright is a popular exception, however. If your graduate work would benefit from research abroad, the U.S. Student Fulbright Program could be an ideal choice. These Department of State-

sponsored awards fund up to one year of independent research or study abroad. The Institute of International Education (IIE) promotes and runs the competition: <http://us.fulbrightonline.org/>.

Students generally work with their current institution to submit applications. Campus review committees assist IIE with an initial screening. Even before this step, most campuses have an FPA (Fulbright Program Advisor) to assist candidates with application preparation. UConn's FPA is Michael Cunningham, Assistant Director of ONSF. His office is located on the first floor of the Rowe Building

(Room 109). Interested candidates should contact him early in the process to ensure that they put together a strong application by the campus screening deadline, which is in mid-September of each year. He has advising hours on nexus.uconn.edu and can be reached at michael.cunningham@uconn.edu. An overview of [our campus process](#) can be found on the ONSF website.

The [Fulbright-Hays Dissertation Doctoral Dissertation Research Abroad](#) (DDRA) is a distinct award that funds field research abroad. The competition for the Fulbright-Hays is run by the Department of Education, which as a government agency requires compliance and a level of complexity usually reserved for the tax code. Dr. Cunningham and ONSF work closely with the Office of Sponsored Program Services on what looks like a hybrid grant-fellowship application. The deadline for the Fulbright-Hays can change dramatically from year to year, as can the preferred qualifications. Still, it is a substantial award, and we are happy to walk eligible students through the details of this exacting application.

OTHER AWARDS

Other individual awards that require some level of institutional support include (but are not limited to) the Presidential Management Fellowships and the Trudeau Foundation Doctoral Scholarships (for Canadian citizens). For assistance with these and all other inquiries about fellowships in the humanities and social sciences, you may contact Vin Moscardelli, Director of ONSF. His office is also located on the 4th floor of the Rowe Building (Room 426A). He also has hours on Nexus and can be reached at vin.moscardelli@uconn.edu.

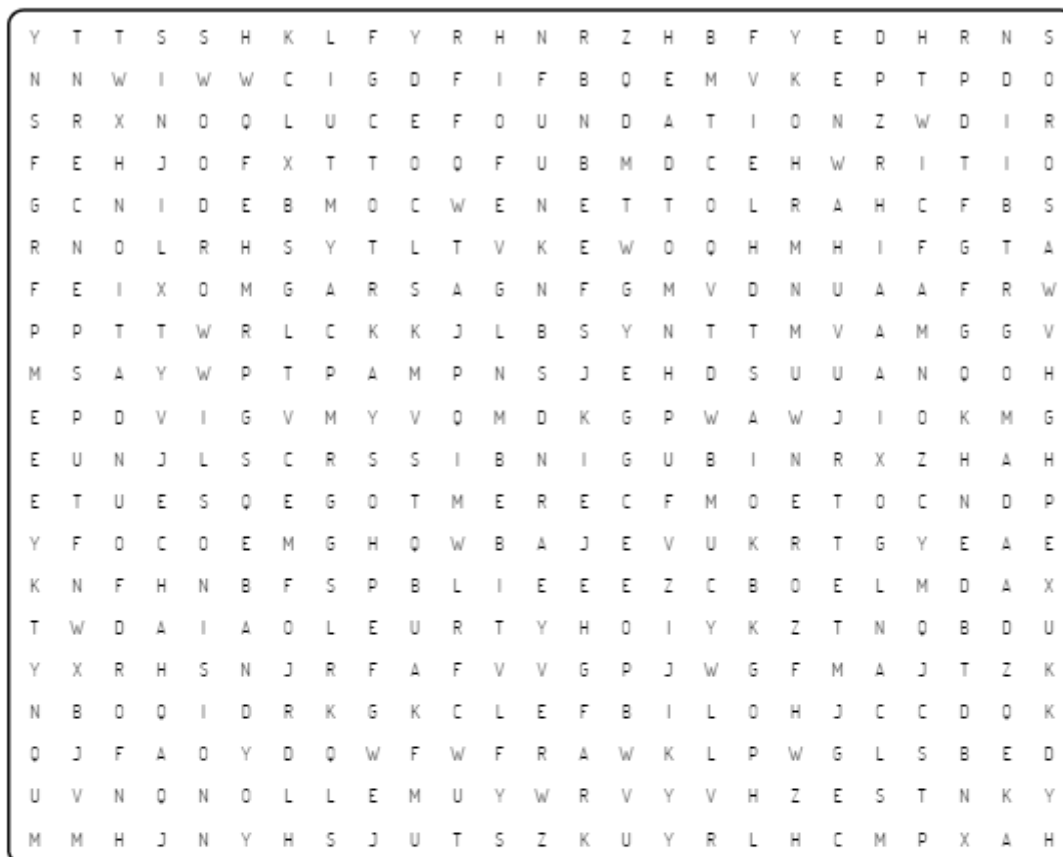


ONSF is located on the fourth floor of the Rowe Building (Room 426A)

3. THE FELLOWSHIP SEARCH

Date _____

Name _____



Find and circle these words:

SMITHSONIAN

PICKERING

DAAD

FULBRIGHT

SOROS

AAUW

SPENCER

CHARLOTTENEWCOMBE

NSEPBOREN

NSFGRFP

NEWBERRY

WOODROWWILSON

ACLS

LUCEFOUNDATION

SSRC

FORDFOUNDATION

MELLON

Made with www.SuperWordGames.com

Googling the major foundations is one way to discover prominent awards. There are also a variety of lists and databases out there that can help you identify which awards might be right for you. ONSF includes major awards on our website – <http://onsf.uconn.edu> – along with upcoming deadlines and other resources. ONSF staff also post regularly on the Grad School Soapbox, which can alert you when deadlines approach; information on signing up for Soapbox is available at <https://grad.uconn.edu/graduate-students/soapbox/>.

As mentioned earlier, the Pivot Database, hosted at UConn by SPS, contains graduate fellowships. One of the most active current databases for fellowships is www.profellow.com. We also highly recommend the [graduate fellowship database](#) compiled by the University of Illinois (see Resources, section 7). Some awards have been “defunded” in recent years, and others have emerged, so always follow-up on a database or list by checking the foundation website for accuracy. A list of search engines ONSF staff have had good experiences with may be found at <https://www.onsf.uconn.edu/scholarshipsearch/>.

Another great way to hear about awards is through your peers and faculty both here on campus and at conferences and other schools. Get in the conversation! The Graduate School-New Brunswick’s Dean’s Office at Rutgers, the State University of New Jersey, used to host [GradFund Conversations](#), a public resource for all interested in graduate education, grants and fellowships. Other similar resources might exist at other institutions.

A NOTE FOR INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

International students are often quickly discouraged when they engage in a fellowship search. This is the case in the sciences particularly, where a lot of the funding comes from government sources that tend to limit competitions to U.S. citizens. Since many funding sources in the humanities and social sciences are private foundations, you may find fewer citizenship restrictions. You may even find opportunities like the AAUW International Fellowship that are designed specifically for you! Do be sure to check eligibility criteria FIRST before digging too deep into an award process. Don’t waste your time if you are not eligible. Some awards may be open to non-U.S. citizens with Permanent Resident status – read the fine print and contact the foundations if you are unclear about the requirements.

Also check to be sure you may use the award where you need it. Some awards may be available only “in country” and may not be tenable at UConn.

SAMPLE AWARDS

Below is information about some of the major awards in the humanities and social sciences (*NB: Deadlines vary from year-to-year: check website for confirmation*):

Abe Fellowship

The Abe Fellowship is designed to encourage international multidisciplinary research on topics of pressing global concern. The program seeks to foster the development of a new generation of researchers who are interested in policy-relevant topics of long-range importance and who are willing to become key members of a bilateral and global research network built around such topics. It strives to promote a new level of intellectual cooperation between the Japanese and American academic and professional communities committed to and trained for advancing global understanding and problem solving.

Eligibility: U.S. and Japanese citizens as well as to nationals of other countries who can demonstrate strong and serious long-term affiliations with research communities in Japan or the United States. Applicants must hold a Ph.D. or the terminal degree in their field, or have attained an equivalent level of professional experience at the time of application.

Amount: Flexible

Sponsor: The Social Science Research Council (SSRC), the Japan Foundation Center for Global Partnership (CGP), and the American Council of Learned Societies (ACLS)

Website: <https://www.ssrc.org/fellowships/view/abe-fellowship/>

Deadline Month: September

American Antiquarian Society: Hensch Post-Dissertation Fellowship

Year-long, residential post-doc at the American Antiquarian Society (Worcester, MA) to revise dissertation for publication.

Eligibility: No more than three years beyond dissertation

Amount: \$35,000

Sponsor: American Antiquarian Society & Andrew W. Mellon Foundation

Website: <http://www.americanantiquarian.org/hensch.htm>

Deadline Month: October

American Antiquarian Society: Short-Term Visiting Academic Research Fellowships

1-2 months visiting research at the American Antiquarian Society (Worcester, MA)

Eligibility: Ph.D.s and doctoral candidates engaged in dissertation research. Candidates holding a recognized terminal degree appropriate to the area of proposed research, such as the master's degree in library science or M.F.A., are also eligible to apply.

Amount: \$1,850 per month or \$1,350 per month including housing in the Society's [Scholars Housing](#).

Sponsor: American Antiquarian Society

Website: <https://www.americanantiquarian.org/short-term-fellowships>

Deadline Month: January

American Jewish Archives Fellowships

The Marcus Center's Fellowship Program provides recipients with month-long fellowships for research and writing at The Jacob Rader Marcus Center of the American Jewish Archives, located on the Cincinnati campus of the Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion.

Eligibility: Post-docs & Ph.D. candidates who are completing dissertations

Amount: Fellowship stipends will be sufficient to cover transportation and living expenses while in residence in Cincinnati.

Sponsor: The Jacob Rader Marcus Center of the American Jewish Archives

Website: <https://www.americanjewisharchives.org/about/fellowship-program/>

Deadline Month: April

Charlotte W. Newcombe Doctoral Dissertation Fellowship

The Charlotte W. Newcombe Doctoral Dissertation Fellowships are designed to encourage original and significant study of ethical or religious values in all fields of the humanities and social science.

Eligibility: Ph.D. & Th.D. candidates (ABD)

Amount: \$25,000

Sponsor: Woodrow Wilson Foundation

Website: <https://citizensandscholars.org/fellowships/newcombe/>

Deadline Month: November

Drugs, Security and Democracy Fellowship

DSD funded research must address the theme of drugs and at least one of the other two themes of security and democracy in Latin America or the Caribbean. These topics may include, but should not be limited to, the following issues and areas of study: political economy, anti-democratic strategies used by communities or states, legal frameworks and analyses, the impact on vulnerable groups, and the role of elites.

Eligibility: Ph.D. candidates who have an approved dissertation prospectus, or postdocs.

Amount: 3-12 months of research expenses. Fellowship amounts vary depending on the research plan; however, support will be provided for travel and living expenses as well as associated research costs based on a budget reviewed by the SSRC.

Sponsor: The DSD Program is funded by the Open Society Foundations and the International Development Research Centre. The program is a partnership between OSF, IDRC, the SSRC, Universidad de los Andes in Bogotá, Colombia, and Centro de Investigación y Docencia Económicas in Mexico.

Website: <https://www.ssrc.org/fellowships/view/dsd-fellowship/>

Deadline Month: March

Ford Foundation Fellowships

Ford Foundation Diversity Fellowships are designed to increase the diversity of the nation's college and university faculties by increasing their ethnic and racial diversity, to maximize the educational benefits of diversity, and to increase the number of professors who can and will use diversity as a resource for enriching the education of all students.

Ford sponsors fellowships at the [predoctoral](#), [dissertation](#) and [postdoctoral](#) levels.

Eligibility: All citizens, nationals, and permanent residents.

Amount: Annual stipend: \$28,000-\$50,000, depending on level. Expenses paid to attend at least one Conference of Ford Fellows.

Website: http://sites.nationalacademies.org/PGA/FordFellowships/PGA_047958

Deadline Month: December

Huntington Library

Various long and short-term residential fellowships available for Ph.D. candidates, postdocs and faculty to research the library's collections (San Marino, CA).

Website: <https://www.huntington.org/fellowships>

Deadline Month: November

Institute of Historical Research Fellowships

The Institute of Historical Research (IHR) runs an extensive program of fellowships which support historians at all career stages. Fellows play an important role in the Institute's intellectual and academic life - as researchers, teachers and supervisors, and organizers of conferences and other events. The Institute also offers a number of annual awards, bursaries and prizes to enable and reward high-quality research.

Eligibility: For most of their junior fellowship programs, applicants may be of any nationality and are expected to be advanced (dissertation stage) graduate students or early career historians. Those who have previously held another postdoctoral research fellowship will not be eligible. Approximately 20 junior fellowships are awarded each year, for periods of between 6 and 24 months.

Amount: Varies by program (e.g., the Institute's [Past and Present Fellowship](#) is currently valued at £36,028 per year for up to two years)

Sponsor: Institute of Historical Research

Website: <https://www.history.ac.uk/join-ihf/fellowships>

Deadline Month: Varies by program

Institute for Humane Studies Fellowships

The Institute, housed at George Mason University, awards graduate funding to "individuals who have a clearly demonstrated research interest in the intellectual and institutional foundations of a free society."

Eligibility: Full-time graduate students. International students are eligible; however, preference is given to applicants who live or study in the United States, Canada, and/or the United Kingdom. Qualifying fields of study include economics, political science, philosophy, law, history, sociology, and similar disciplines in the social sciences and humanities.

Amount: \$2,000-\$15,000/yr (renewable). Larger awards of \$6,000 – \$15,000 are highly competitive and generally reserved for late-stage graduate students who have demonstrated academic excellence and publication success with highly relevant research that "advances the classical liberal tradition."

Sponsor: Institute for Humane Studies

Website: <http://www.theihs.org/humane-studies-fellowships>

Deadline Months: August, December, April

International Doctoral Scholarship for Studies Specializing in Jewish Fields

The purpose of the Foundation's Doctoral Scholarship Program is to help train qualified individuals for careers in Jewish scholarship and research, and to help Jewish educational, religious, and communal workers obtain advanced training for leadership positions.

Eligibility: Ph.D. students specializing in a Jewish field; dissertation proposal already approved. Non-U.S. citizens are eligible.

Amount: up to \$10,000/yr. (renewable)

Sponsor: Memorial Foundation for Jewish Culture

Website: <http://www.mfjc.org/support/howto.html>

Deadline Month: October

International Fellowship in Jewish Studies and Jewish Culture - MFJC

The purpose of the Foundation's Fellowship Program is to assist well-qualified individuals in carrying out an independent scholarly, literary or art project, in a field of Jewish specialization, which makes a significant contribution to the understanding, preservation, enhancement or transmission of Jewish culture. The MFJC also administers a separate Doctoral Scholarship Program.

Eligibility: "Any qualified scholar..." Non-U.S. Citizens are eligible.

Amount: up to \$10,000/yr. (renewable)

Sponsor: Memorial Foundation for Jewish Culture

Website: <http://www.mfjc.org/support/howto.html>

Deadline Month: October

Deadline Month: March

Japan Society for the Promotion of Science (JSPS) Fellowship

The SSRC/JSPS Fellowship Program for ABDs and Recent PhDs provides promising and highly qualified researchers with opportunities to conduct research at leading universities and other research institutions in Japan for 1-12 month or 12-24 month terms. Projects need not be explicitly related to the study of Japan, but must propose work with colleagues and resources in Japan. The program especially encourages proposals for cooperative research with colleagues in Japan under the guidance of a senior host researcher.

Eligibility: Recent Ph.D. recipients and ABDs. Candidates must possess U.S. citizenship or permanent residency status. Permanent residents must provide a copy of a permanent resident card ("green card"). Researchers of Japanese nationality are ineligible.

Amount: Varies (long-term and short-term awards ranging from 1-24 months)

Sponsor: Fellows are selected by the [Japan Society for the Promotion of Science \(JSPS\)](http://www.jsp.or.jp/) based on nominations made by the SSRC Japan Advisory Board. The SSRC Japan Advisory Board recommends to JSPS up to 20 candidates annually from the social sciences and humanities.

Website: <http://www.ssrc.org/fellowships/jsp-s-fellowship/>

Deadline Month: January

Mellon/ACLS Dissertation Completion Fellowships

Eligibility: Ph.D. candidates (ABD) in a humanities or social science

Amount: Stipend: \$25,000, plus funds for research costs of up to \$3,000 and for university fees of up to \$5,000

Sponsor: Andrew W. Mellon Foundation & American Council of Learned Societies

Website: <http://www.acls.org/programs/acf/>

Deadline Month: October

Mellon/CES Dissertation Completion Fellowships

Eligibility: Ph.D. candidates in European studies who are ABD w/no more than one year left

Amount: \$25,000 stipend + up to \$3,500 health care waivers

Sponsor: Andrew W. Mellon Foundation and the Council for European Studies

Website: <http://councilforeuropeanstudies.org/grants-and-awards/dissertation-completion>

Deadline Month: February

Mellon/CLIR Fellowships for Dissertation Research in Original Sources

Eligibility: Ph.D. candidates in humanities or social sciences (ABD); plan to do dissertation research primarily in original source material in the holdings of archives, libraries, historical societies, museums, related repositories, or a combination.

Amount: Up to \$25,000

Sponsor: Council on Library and Information Resources & the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation

Website: <http://www.clir.org/fellowships/mellon>

Deadline Month: November

Mellon/IHR Pre-dissertation Fellowships

Seven Pre-dissertation Fellowships in the humanities are offered to candidates who wish to spend time in the UK for preliminary examinations of primary sources and archival material in order to draw up and refine a dissertation proposal. They are intended for the preliminary investigation of archives, and not for short-term research projects.

Eligibility: Doctoral candidates (ABD) in the humanities

Amount: \$5,000

Sponsor: Andrew W. Mellon Foundation & Institute of Historical Research

Website: <http://www.history.ac.uk/fellowships/ihr-mellon-pre-dissertation-fellowships>

Deadline Month: January

Mellon/IHR Dissertation Fellowships

Five Dissertation Fellowships in the humanities are offered to candidates, who wish to spend time in the UK carrying out archival research for their dissertations.

Eligibility: Doctoral candidates (ABD) in the humanities

Amount: \$25,000

Sponsor: Andrew W. Mellon Foundation & Institute of Historical Research

Website: <http://www.history.ac.uk/fellowships/ihr-mellon-pre-dissertation-fellowships>

Deadline Month: January

Newberry Library Fellowships

Fellowships at the Newberry Library (Chicago, IL) provide support for researchers who wish to use the library's collection.

Eligibility: Long-term fellowships are restricted to postdoctoral scholars; most short-term fellowships are open to Ph.D. candidates (w/approved dissertation topic) and postdoctoral scholars.

Amount: \$4,200/mo (long term); \$2,000/mo (short term) stipends

Sponsor: Newberry Library

Website: <http://www.newberry.org/fellowships>

Deadline Month(s): Long-term: December; Short-term: January

Pickering Graduate Foreign Affairs Fellowship

The Program seeks to recruit talented students in academic programs relevant to international affairs, political and economic analysis, administration, management, and science policy. The goal is to attract outstanding students from all ethnic, racial and social backgrounds who have an interest in pursuing a Foreign Service career in the U.S. Department of State.

Eligibility: United States citizens, 3.2+ GPA; candidates must be seeking admission to graduate school for the following academic year. Winners are expected to enroll in a two-year, full-time master's degree program in either public policy, international affairs, public administration, or in an academic field such as business, economics, political science, sociology, or foreign languages (U.S. graduate institutions only).

Amount: up to \$40,000 (each year for 2 year master's degree)

Sponsor: U.S. Department of State & the Woodrow Wilson National Fellowship Foundation

Website: http://www.woodrow.org/higher-education-fellowships/foreign_affairs/pickering_grad/program.php

Deadline Month: February

Radcliffe Institute for Advanced Study Dissertation Grants

Eligibility: Ph.D. candidates with an approved dissertation topic whose research requires use of the Schlesinger Library's collections (Cambridge, MA). Non-US citizens are eligible but should contact the library regarding visas and other required paperwork prior to applying.

Amount: up to \$3,000

Sponsor: Radcliffe Institute for Advanced Study, Harvard University

Website: <http://www.radcliffe.harvard.edu/schlesinger-library/grants/dissertation-grants>

Deadline Month: March

Smithson Postdoc Fellowship

The James Smithson Fellowship Program offers an early career opportunity for scholars interested in gaining experience in both scholarship and policy through a Smithsonian lens.

Eligibility: U.S. citizens; postdocs not more than 5 years beyond Ph.D.

Amount: varies

Sponsor: Smithsonian Institute

Website: <http://www.smithsonianofi.com/fellowship-opportunities/james-smithson-fellowship-program/>

Deadline Month: January

Smithsonian Institution Fellowship Program

Awarded to conduct research in association with members of the Smithsonian professional research staff, and to utilize the resources of the Institution (Washington D.C.).

Eligibility: Applicants must propose to conduct research at the Smithsonian in one of its areas of research as outlined in the publication, Smithsonian Opportunities for Research and Study, for a period of three to twelve months, or ten weeks for the Graduate Student Fellowship.

Graduate Student Fellowship: Graduate students must have completed at least one full time semester or have completed the graduate program within the past four months. Graduate Student Fellowships are usually intended for students who have not yet been advanced to candidacy if in a doctoral program.

Predocctoral Fellowships: Students enrolled in a university as candidates for the Ph.D. (ABD). The university must approve the undertaking of dissertation research at the Smithsonian Institution.

Postdoctoral Fellowships: Applicants are eligible to apply for postdoctoral fellowships who have or will have received the Ph.D.

Amount: \$6,500 for Graduate Students (10 weeks); \$30,000 for predoc (year); \$45,000 for postdoc (year)

Sponsor: Smithsonian Institute

Website: <http://www.si.edu/ofg/Applications/SIFELL/SIFELLapp.htm>

Deadline Month: January

Smithsonian Institution Latino Studies Fellowship Program

Awarded to conduct research related to U.S. Latino history, art and culture in association with members of the Smithsonian professional research staff, and utilizing the resources of the Institution.

Eligibility: Ph.D. candidates (ABD) and postdoc

Amount: \$30,000 (predoc/yr); \$45,000 (postdoc/yr)

Sponsor: Smithsonian Insitute

Website: <http://www.si.edu/ofg/Applications/LSFELL/LSFELLapp.htm>

Deadline Month: January

Smithsonian Lemelson Center Fellowships

Supports projects that present creative approaches to the study of invention and innovation in American society. The programs provide access to the expertise of the Institution's research staff and the vast invention and technology collections of the National Museum of American History (NMAH)

Eligibility: Graduate Student; Postdoc; recent Graduate of M.A., or M.S. or equivalent; Ph.D. Candidate (ABD)

Amount: Pre-doctoral: \$575/week; postdoctoral and professional: \$870/week

Sponsor: Smithsonian Institute

Website: <http://www.smithsonianof.com/fellowship-opportunities/lemelson-center-fellowships/>

Deadline Month: January

Smithsonian Peter Buck Fellowships

1-3 years funding to work in area of study related to the National Museum of Natural History's research staff, collections and facilities.

Eligibility: Graduate students; Ph.D. candidates; postdocs

Amount: Equal to other predoc and postdoc SI fellowships

Sponsor: Smithsonian Institute

Website: <http://www.smithsonianof.com/fellowship-opportunities/peter-buck-fellowship/>

Deadline Month: January

Smithsonian Fellowships (Other)

Website: <http://www.smithsonianof.com/fellowship-opportunities/latino-museum-studies-program/>

Spencer Foundation/National Academy of Education (NAEd) - Dissertation Fellowship Program

The Program encourages scholars from a wide range of disciplines to undertake research relevant to the improvement of education. Fellowships support individuals whose dissertations show potential for bringing fresh and constructive perspectives to the history, theory, or practice of formal or informal education anywhere in the world. The Fellowship is for one year.

Eligibility: Applicants need not be citizens of the United States; however, they must be candidates for the doctoral degree (ABD) at a graduate school within the United States. Applicants should have a demonstrated record of research experience in education.

Amount: \$25,000 stipend.

Website: http://www.naeducation.org/NAED_080200.htm

Deadline: Late Sept./Early October

SSRC Dissertation Proposal Development Fellowship (DPDF)

The Dissertation Proposal Development Fellowship (DPDF) Student Fellowship Competition is organized to help mid-stage graduate students in the humanities and social sciences formulate

effective research proposals through scholarly exchange within interdisciplinary areas of study. Each year, the program offers dissertation proposal development workshops led by pairs of tenured senior faculty in the US and abroad who define emerging or reinvigorated multidisciplinary research fields.

Eligibility: Ph.D. students in social science or humanities disciplines who have completed their major course requirements and are beginning to design research proposals. Non-U.S. citizens may apply.

Amount: Travel and lodging expenses to attend spring and fall workshops; up to \$5,000 to support direct summer research expenses.

Sponsor: Andrew W. Mellon Foundation & the Social Science Research Council

Website: <http://www.ssrc.org/fellowships/dpdf-fellowship/>

Deadline Month: January

SSRC International Dissertation Research Fellowship (IDRF)

The Mellon International Dissertation Research Fellowship (IDRF) offers nine to twelve months of support to graduate students in the humanities and humanistic social sciences who are enrolled in Ph.D. programs in the United States and conducting dissertation research on non-US topics.

Eligibility: Ph.D. students in the humanities and social sciences -- regardless of citizenship. Applicants must complete all Ph.D. requirements except on-site research by the time the fellowship begins.

Amount: \$20,000 (average)

Sponsor: Andrew W. Mellon Foundation & the Social Science Research Council

Website: <http://www.ssrc.org/fellowships/idrf-fellowship/>

Deadline Month: November

Woodrow Wilson Doctoral Dissertation Fellowship in Women's Studies

Eligibility: Ph.D. candidates (ABD) writing on issues related to women, gender, women's studies or feminist/gender/LGBTQ theory

Amount: TBD

Sponsor: Woodrow Wilson Foundation

Website: http://www.woodrow.org/higher-education-fellowships/women_gender/application.php

Deadline Month: Fall

4. BUILD YOUR SUPPORT TEAM



Before you even begin an application process, you need to think about who is in your corner. While fellowships are awarded to individuals, it often takes a team effort to win one. Faculty and other academic professionals are here to support students and postdocs. Yes, they also have other things to worry about, like research, grading, departmental politics and parking. That said, the vast majority of academics are excited to help a budding scholar and can provide useful advice, letters of recommendation (LORs), feedback on application materials, as well as encouragement and moral support.

Your ability to organize your application process (see Application Timeline, section 5) can greatly assist your faculty and ensure that they can offer the best possible support. No one appreciates last minute requests.

LETTER WRITERS

Every fellowship requires letters of recommendation (LORs). If you are in the very early stages of your graduate career, you may need to rely on faculty from your undergraduate institution to provide some of these letters. You should, however, always have a writer at your current institution who can attest to the promise you possessed when they admitted you. You should also identify which faculty can address the disciplinary nuances of your proposed scholarly work. It can be helpful to have well-regarded “senior” faculty members or full professors writing for you. Sometimes, however, a substantive letter from a “junior” faculty member is more valuable than a pro-forma letter from an established expert who doesn’t know you well. If you have a thesis advisor or dissertation director, that person should *always* write one of your letters. (If they don’t, a foundation will wonder why.)

Spend enough time with your letter writers in the course of your graduate studies to enable them to see your intellectual potential and strengths. Go to office hours, ask questions, seek advice. When it’s time to ask for a letter of recommendation, share your CV and any relevant scholarly work. Tell them who else is writing for you and why they are an important part of your application.

Finally, give them enough TIME to draft a substantive letter. A month is good. Be sure they know the deadline and be sure to follow-up repeatedly. (Seriously, they will need reminders and will be grateful for them!) Explain how the letter should be submitted (usually online) and that you will register them with the application site. Confirm that you are using the correct email address when you register them.

FYI, ONSF is happy to offer advice and [guidance to faculty who are writing letters of recommendation](#). We can review of a draft or just proofread. Interested faculty can contact: vin.moscardelli@uconn.edu.

OUTSIDE READERS

In addition to faculty letter writers, who might also provide feedback on your application materials, it can be a good idea to have an “outside reader” who is not in your exact field or subfield but who can grasp the general purpose and value of your work. Outside readers might able to provide feedback on a personal statement, or they are in a related field, perhaps even a proposal. Many times application reviewers will come from a variety of disciplines and you will need to make yourself clear to a wider audience than usual. Learn the make-up of review panels from the foundation and seek out readers who might mirror their level of expertise.

In some cases, advisors at ONSF can be useful outside readers for proposals and are always happy to provide feedback on personal statements. Vin Moscardelli is a political scientist by training and Dr. Cunningham has bachelor's degree in engineering and a PhD in history. Both have advising hours on Nexus. Or contact Vin directly via email or phone: vin.moscardelli@uconn.edu; 860-486-0087.



The graduate tutors at the [University Writing Center](#) (located in Babbidge Library) are trained to respond to personal statements; often these tutors will have fellowship-writing experience themselves. Each semester, the Writing Center offers a variety of graduate student workshops and retreats, including personal statement writing workshops. These workshops/retreats are valuable not only for the feedback

you receive, but for the dedicated time they provide for writing.

5. APPLICATION TIMELINE

PLAN AHEAD

Applying for fellowships takes advanced planning and a degree of organization. You will need TIME to plan and prepare a competitive application. Last minute applications are rarely (if ever) successful. How much time? Between 6-8 weeks is ideal; perhaps you could get away with a month if you are able to concentrate your time. The point is that you will need to work your application process into your already busy schedule. Get used to it – this is what academics do! Consider applying for funding and sharing your proposals and work as an integral part of your job.

ORGANIZE

Don't put all your eggs in one basket – apply to every available opportunity. With some organization, you can thoughtfully adapt your materials to suit the requirements of each application. You do need to address the purpose of each award, however, and you do need to be sure your letter writers are on board and keep LORs on file for you.

YOU are in charge of your application, but you are not alone in the process. You may be relying on faculty to write letters of recommendation, provide feedback on proposals and other advisors to read and proofread your work. It is important to follow-up with all of your supporters well in advance of the deadline.

Enter your application process into your calendar, along with your course assignments and teaching/research and writing responsibilities. Break it down into manageable steps. Fellowship applications should not be the big “extra” thing you don't have time for; they should be scheduled into your academic career. Within this process, you will need time not only for writing and filling out application materials, but you will need to reflect and obtain feedback. You will also need to build-in time for unexpected delays and technical difficulties. Deadlines for these opportunities are firm. Even if a technical error is not your fault, you are still responsible for submitting your application on time.



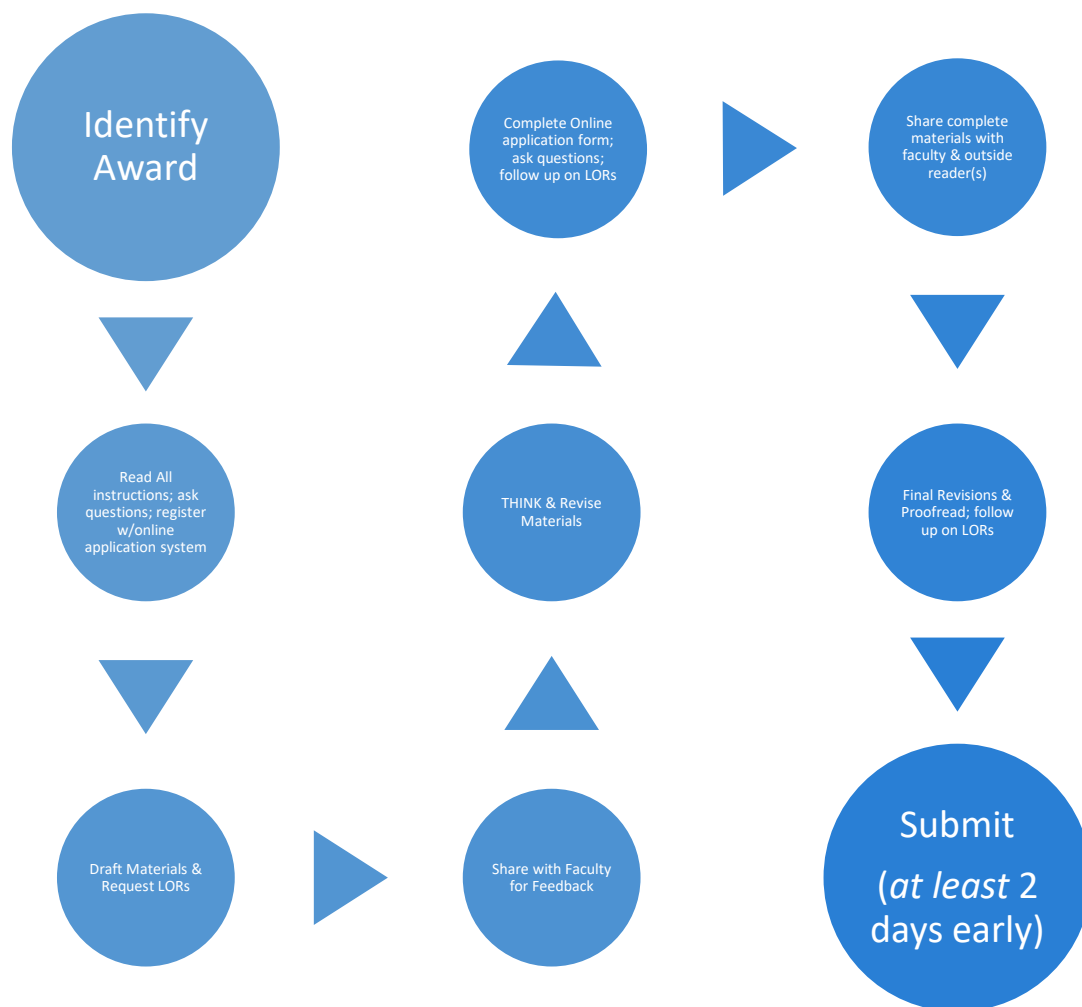
For this reason, aim to be done a week in advance, if possible. Sometimes even weather can be a factor, especially during hurricane season when major power outages always seem to collide with major fellowship deadlines.

If you are working through to a precise deadline, be sure you know the exact TIME of day application is due. Sometimes it's at the end of a business day and sometimes it's midnight or 11:59pm. Also **check the time zone**. Most systems shut down at a precise time – one second late is too late!

"I love deadlines. I like the whooshing sounds they make as they fly by." – Douglas Adams

TYPICAL APPLICATION PROCESS

Each  = 1 week



6. APPLICATION TIPS

- Consider applying for funding to be part of your work. Schedule it into your week.
- It's a process – break it down into steps.
- Start early – at least two-three months before the deadline.
- Get advice from your faculty & ONSF about competitions and funding agencies: build your team!
- **READ THE INSTRUCTIONS** – read *every* word of the solicitation, *every* word of the website. Knowing the exact guidelines will make the process easier AND ensure that you don't miss something vital. You can also get a good sense of “what they are looking for” in the way they map out instructions (e.g., if they mention “culture” forty times, you may want to address the cultural significance of your project).
- Before drafting your statements, talk to previous applicants. Look at their materials. You can learn about previous winners on the websites and may even be able to contact them for advice. (ONSF may have copies of applications submitted by UConn students in previous years.)
- Get advice from your faculty & ONSF about your statements and application materials.
- Ask for letters of recommendation *well* before the deadline (at least 4 weeks).
- Keep scanned copies of your official transcripts and test scores handy and up-to-date.
- Keep an updated CV.
- Use the helpline or Email the foundation with questions. (Do check the website first, though, to see if your questions appear on an FAQ page or can be easily answered in the instructions!)
- Use the University Writing Center. Not only can you take advantage of a personal statement workshop, but also you might find writing “bootcamps” a good way to carve out time for your applications.
- Revise & proofread as if for publication. One reason that last-minute applications don't fly is because they contain careless errors.
- Make a PDF of your finished online application, if possible, before you submit it. You can't always access your completed application after you've hit submit.
- Keep copies of all your materials (for your records and for future applications).
- Submit early – technical difficulties can occur close to the deadline.
- If technical difficulties do occur, contact the foundation immediately for advice.

- Don't wait for results. Move on to the next opportunity! Some awards may be used simultaneously with other awards and sometimes, if you are lucky enough to receive two awards, you may have to choose between them. It's better to make that choice than to face no options at all. FYI, if you are awarded a government fellowship or grant, you probably cannot accept another government award at the same time – check the rules. Always ask.



7. RESOURCES

<http://www.profellow.com/> ProFellow seeks to be a comprehensive list of professional and academic fellowships — check it out!

[Fellowships for Graduate Students](#) (An excellent database hosted by the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign featuring over 800 listings of external funding opportunities for graduate students.)

[GradFund Conversations](#) is a service of the Graduate School-New Brunswick's Dean's Office at Rutgers, the State University of New Jersey. Their blog is a public resource for all interested in graduate education, grants and fellowships.

<http://www.onlinecolleges.net/for-students/scholarships-for-women/> provides advice and a useful listing of scholarships specifically targeting women applicants.

AT UCONN

Office of National Scholarships & Fellowships: www.onsf.uconn.edu

- Vin Moscardelli, Director (vin.moscardelli@uconn.edu), works with fellowship candidates in the humanities and social sciences
- Michael Cunningham, Assistant Director (michael.cunningham@uconn.edu), works with applicants for Fulbright and other research-abroad funding (including CLS and Boren).

UConn Humanities Institute: <http://humanities.uconn.edu/> (includes internal awards and a great list of external awards)

UConn Human Rights Institute: <http://humanrights.uconn.edu/>

CLAS Grants Management Services: <http://bsc.clas.uconn.edu/grants/>

Sponsored Program Services: <http://research.uconn.edu/sps-proposals/>

<http://pivot.uconn.edu/> Pivot Database (UConn gateway). Workshops on how to get the most out of Pivot are frequently held in Babbidge Library.