Presidential Dissertation Completion Fellowships
Spring 2021 Call for Applications
Version 3/12/21

Spring 2021 Application Deadline: March 31, 2021

Presidential Dissertation Completion Fellowships: A dissertation completion fellowship would provide one or two semesters of stipend support for an advanced doctoral or MFA student who has experienced a delay in their degree progress due to circumstances or challenges beyond their control. To be eligible, students must establish that they do not have another source of stipend support for the requested semester(s). The fellowship would allow the student to complete their degree requirements without adding any additional service or teaching duties. Successful applications will demonstrate solid achievement and steady pre-pandemic progress to degree, compelling need for additional support, and a viable plan and potential for degree completion by the end of the funded period.

Awards: Depending on the student’s completion timeline and need for funding, applicants to this call may request one of the following:

- Summer 2021 support in the amount of $3,000 if the applicant plans to graduate by August 2021;
- Fall 2021 support in the amount of $10,000; or
- Academic year 2021-2022 (Fall ’21 and Spring ’22) support in the amount of $20,000.

The applicant must justify the requested duration of funding in the statement of need (see application materials below). Awardees will be appointed as a Graduate Assistant for the funded period. All Fall ’21 and Academic Year ’21-’22 Dissertation Completions Fellows will receive a Graduate Tuition Scholarship and a fee scholarship. It is expected that awardees will focus on finishing their degree during the funded period without teaching or other service obligations.

We anticipate approximately 15-30 awards will be made in this first round (see timeline below).

Eligibility: Eligible applicants:

- Are doctoral (PhD and DMA) students in good standing who have advanced to candidacy and advanced MFA students in good standing;
- Have experienced a delay in their progress to degree due to circumstances or challenges beyond their control. Degree progress may look different depending upon the discipline or degree program and therefore it is the responsibility of the applicant to justify delays and progress in a way that a multi-disciplinary faculty review committee can understand;
- Do not have another source of stipend support for the requested semester(s);
- Are enrolled full- or part-time at the time of application, but if selected, will be expected to maintain full-time status in good standing during the funding period; and
- May apply for both a Presidential Completion Fellowship and Critical Research Funds, but in the unlikely situation that a student is selected for both, awardees may have to choose one award so we can ensure the broadest dispersion of support.
How to Apply: Applications will be submitted through an online application form found here: grad.stonybrook.edu/cost-funding/Presidential-Dissertation

The form will ask applicants to upload their application materials (listed below) as PDF files, except for the advisor letter of support, which should be emailed directly to fellowships@stonybrook.edu and must include the student’s name in the subject line.

Applications will be submitted by the student in collaboration with the student’s thesis advisor. The advisor must attest that they have reviewed the application and support it.

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Application Materials: Documents should be single spaced with Times New Roman 11 point font.

- Abstract or summary of the dissertation or thesis (no more than two pages)
  - Summary should include an outline of each chapter or equivalent unit of progress
- Description of progress toward degree to date (one page)
  - What progress has been made on dissertation, thesis or equivalent?
  - Describe progress in a way that is understandable to a multi-disciplinary faculty review committee.
- One completed dissertation or thesis chapter
  - If a dissertation or thesis is not required in the student’s discipline, the applicant should instead include equivalent, appropriate evidence of concrete progress to degree.
  - No need to modify this in any way for the multidisciplinary faculty review committee.
- History of student’s past and current funding for their dissertation/thesis work (one page)
  - Please include source of funding, amount, and duration
- Statement of need describing the circumstances or challenges beyond the student’s control that have led to a delay in progress and a need for funding (one page)
  - The statement should justify the requested duration of funding.
  - Delays in progress may look different depending upon the discipline or degree program and therefore it is the responsibility of the applicant to justify delays and progress in a way that a multi-disciplinary faculty review committee can understand
- Work plan for the funding period, including goals and milestones for reaching degree completion by the end of the funding period (one page)
  - Work plan should include estimated defense date (if applicable) and expected date of degree completion
- Student’s CV (no more than 5 pages)
- Letter of support from the thesis advisor that includes an overview of the student’s achievements and progress to date, and their potential to finish their degree if awarded the fellowship (no more than 3 pages)
  - The advisor must affirm that no other funding is available to support the student during the requested time period.
  - The advisor must attest in the letter that they have reviewed and support the submitted application.
The letter should emphasize the critical role this award would play in the student’s degree completion, in contrast to typical letters of reference that may emphasize the merits of the thesis work itself.

Since degree progress may look different depending upon the discipline or degree program, the letter of support should justify delays and progress in a way that a multi-disciplinary faculty review committee can understand it.

The letter of support should be sent directly to fellowships@stonybrook.edu by the advisor.

**Awardee Selection:** Applications will be evaluated by a multi-disciplinary faculty review committee for the following equally weighted criteria:

- Solid record of achievement and steady, pre-pandemic progress;
- Compelling need for funding support based on circumstances or challenges beyond the student’s control; and
- Viable work plan, with goals and milestones, that shows strong potential for degree completion by the end of the funded period.

Considerations will be made to ensure disciplinary equity and program balance.

**Timeline:** There will be two calls for applications for these awards. The current Spring 2021 call will award support for Summer 2021, Fall 2021 and Academic Year 2021-22. A subsequent call will be released in Fall 2021 for Spring 2022 and Summer 2022. The results of the current competition should be announced by the end of April 2021.

**Reporting:** Awardees will be expected to submit a final report within six months of the end of the funded period. The report should describe progress toward stated goals, including major results, conclusions, publications or other resulting products, and summarize subsequent career steps following the award.

**Questions:** Please address questions to fellowships@stonybrook.edu.