



HARVARD UNIVERSITY
The Graduate School of Arts and Sciences

Graduate Society Research Fellowships:
Term-Time and Merit

Instructions for Students
2018-2019

These fellowships allow outstanding GSAS students to focus their time on research, fieldwork, and writing. The award is available to all departments, including the natural sciences. It should be noted that the applicant pool for this fellowship is extremely large, with only a limited number of available awards; typically only around 20-25% of the applicant pool receive this award.

Advising on fellowship proposals and all aspects of the application process is available by making an appointment with the GSAS Fellowships Director Cynthia Verba at 617-495-1814. The online publication *Scholarly Pursuits* includes advice and samples of winning proposals and can be accessed on the Fellowships Office website at gsas.harvard.edu/fellowships.

Instructions for Students

Eligibility

To be eligible, you must:

- have passed your Generals
- have an approved dissertation prospectus at the time of nomination, or no later than the beginning of the semester when the award is taken.
- be registered in a GSAS department and must apply through that department.

Conditions

- Students in the humanities and social sciences may apply in only one category of GSAS fellowships in any given year (for example, you cannot apply for a summer award or Dissertation Completion Fellowship while applying for a research/merit award).
- Students who receive a Merit offer and a full-year award from another source may not accept a Merit offer.
- Students who receive a Merit offer plus another single-semester offer from a Harvard research center or other source, the acceptance of both must be approved by both sources and used for separate semesters.
- Acceptance of an award may not be deferred; students must reapply.
- A given GSAS fellowship can only be held a single time.

Stipend, Tenure, and Location

The maximum grant is a single-term standard cohort stipend (in FY 17, it is \$14,010). The award is taken for one semester and may be taken in either fall or spring. The stipend is paid in five monthly installments: either September 1–January or February –June 1.

During the semester that the award is held, teaching is restricted to 1/5 (one section), with no restriction in the non-fellowship term. Similarly, during the Merit semester, no other employment is allowed.

How To Apply

- Find out your departmental deadline
- Complete your application in CARAT by the deadline, including:
 - Application form, which includes a brief synopsis of the proposed project (the CARAT “Project Description” tab)
 - Statement of Purpose two-to-four pages (double-spaced) in length
 - Curriculum vitae
 - Graduate school transcript (Students may submit an unofficial transcript generated from **my.harvard** to represent their current graduate studies)
 - Two letters of recommendation from faculty members, to be submitted electronically through CARAT

Criteria Used to Evaluate Candidates

Quality of Proposal:

1. Clarity of the statement in terms of the major question(s) to be examined and the description and justification of the research methods and sources to be used, with attention paid to making it accessible for people outside the field;
2. Relationship of the proposed project to the literature on the topic and its importance to the concerns of the discipline;
3. Feasibility of the proposed project in terms of preliminary research and preparation already completed or to be completed prior to the grant, including language or other necessary skills, as well as knowledge of the kinds, quality and availability of data required for implementing the project;
4. Reference letters reveal that the writers are well informed about the student’s work on the topic, indicating a high level of communication between student and recommenders. The level of approval of the project reveals the strongest support.
5. Overall strength of the applicant’s graduate academic record, including honors and publications, plus extent to which the record demonstrates a strength relevant to the proposed project.