GRADUATE SOCIETY RESEARCH FELLOWSHIPS:
TERM-TIME AND MERIT
2018-2019

PURPOSE AND ELIGIBILITY:

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

You are allowed to apply in only one category of GSAS fellowships in any given year (for example, you cannot apply for a summer or DCF award while applying for a research/merit award.) Should you receive a Merit offer and also win a full year award from another source, you may not hold that award and accept a Merit offer. Should you receive a Merit offer plus another single semester offer from a Harvard research center or other source, the acceptance of both would have to be approved by both sources, and would have to be used in separate semesters. Acceptance of an award may not be deferred; students would have to reapply. Finally, 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. 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. The stipend is paid in five monthly installments: either September 1st through January 1st or February 1st through June 1st.

HOW TO APPLY:

First Step: Find Out Departmental Deadline

The following materials must be submitted in CARAT by the departmental deadline:

1. Application form, which includes a brief synopsis of the proposed project (the CARAT “Project Description” tab);
2. Candidate’s Statement of Purpose, two to four pages (double-spaced) in length;
3. A curriculum vitae;
4. Candidate’s graduate school transcript. Students may submit an unofficial transcript generated from my.harvard to represent their current graduate studies;
5. Two letters of recommendation from faculty members, to be submitted electronically through CARAT
Note the Following 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:

Reminder: Advising on your fellowship proposal and all aspects of the application process is available through GSAS Fellowships Director, Cynthia Verba; make an appointment by calling (617) 495-1814. The online publication Scholarly Pursuits, has written advice and samples of winning proposals, available at the Fellowships Office website.

PROCEDURES FOR DEPARTMENTS IN MAKING NOMINATIONS IN RANKED ORDER:

Announce Department Deadline to Students

Prepare department submission, which now includes a new evaluation form plus the existing ranking sheet, but with rankings now determined by the numerical totals indicated on the each evaluation form for Overall Quality. The steps for completing the evaluation forms may vary according to the size of the department and the size of the eligible candidate pool. In some cases, a committee is formed; in others, the determination is made through informal consultation. Once the department has done its evaluation forms and completed its ranked nomination form, department administrators must upload these forms as an attachment to each student’s application in CARAT.

Department nominations and accompanying materials should be submitted in CARAT by the deadline of December 11, 2017 (M). Questions about the submission process may be addressed to Cynthia Verba, Director of Fellowships, (617) 495-1814.

PLEASE NOTE: This is a new and earlier deadline (replacing a later February deadline).