

**THE CUNY GRADUATE CENTER DISSERTATION FELLOWSHIP COMPETITION  
FOR THE 2024-2025 ACADEMIC YEAR**

Applications Due: **Tuesday, January 16, 2024, no later than 5:00pm**

**GUIDELINES**

**Eligibility Requirements**

- Students must be officially advanced to candidacy (level III) before February 14, 2024.
- Dissertation Fellowships are intended for students who expect to complete the dissertation during 2024-2025 award year; the applicant's likelihood of completing the dissertation during this period may be taken into consideration in the selection process.
- Students must be registered or on an approved leave of absence during the 2023-2024 academic year to be eligible to apply.
- Students who have previously received a dissertation fellowship of more than \$10,000 from the Graduate Center are not eligible.
- All applicants will automatically be considered for all relevant dissertation awards, with the exception of those listed as special focus awards in the award description section. Students wishing to be considered for a special focus award should check off the award(s) for which they are eligible on the online portion of the application.
- Students must use their Graduate Center email address to submit the application.

**Combining Dissertation Fellowships with Other Awards**

- A student holding a five-year fellowship from the Graduate Center (e.g., Graduate Center Fellowship) may not hold a dissertation fellowship concurrently with the five-year award. A student with a five-year award may apply, but if selected for a dissertation fellowship the student will have to choose between the five-year fellowship funding and the dissertation fellowship funding.
- Students who are in year five or beyond may apply, even if they have previously held a five-year fellowship.
- A student holding Graduate Center funding that is not part of a five-year award (such as a freestanding Graduate Assistantship A, B, or D or financial aid fellowship) may apply for the dissertation fellowships but, if offered an award, the total funding (combined graduate assistant salary and financial aid fellowships) may not exceed \$55,000.
- A student who is offered an external fellowship for the same period as the GC Dissertation Fellowship should provide documentation to the Provost's Office on the terms of the external fellowship. Funding will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis. (See [here](#) for financial aid guidelines and policies.)

**Terms of the Fellowship**

- Fellowship recipients are required to be registered during the award year.
- Dissertation Fellowships of more than \$10,000 may provide NYSHIP health insurance eligibility.
- Students who qualify for the Ph.D. in time for an October 2024 degree are not eligible to receive funding.
- If you are planning any travel as part of your research, the university requires you to have travel insurance. Please see the [International Travel Requirements Page](#) for complete details.
- Students must have met [Human Subjects Research Protection](#) guidelines and [CUNY Research Compliance](#) guidelines.

## APPLICATION COMPONENTS

Please see the “instructions” section below for complete details about how to submit your application. Each application must include the following:

1. **Cover sheet** (included in this packet and attached separately in email notification)
2. **Proposal**
  - a.) **9-page project description** including a 150-word abstract (the abstract should be single-spaced at the top of page one). The project description should include discussion of the background, relevant literature, methodology, data, projected results, and a time-line/description indicating expected progress.
  - b.) **1-page selected bibliography**

The text describing the dissertation project should be double-spaced using a 12-point font with numbered pages and a 1-inch margin. The abstract and bibliography can be single-spaced.

*Students are advised to keep in mind that the review committees are interdisciplinary and grouped by cluster (sciences, social sciences, and humanities).*

3. **Two-page curriculum vitae.**
4. **Current Graduate Center transcript.** (Students may submit the unofficial student copy that can be printed from CUNYFirst.)

The application materials should be assembled AS A SINGLE DOCUMENT in pdf or word format in the following order:

- a. Application cover sheet
- b. Statement of applicability for special focus awards (if applicable, see award descriptions for details)
- c. 9-page proposal
- d. 1-page bibliography
- e. 2-page CV
- f. Graduate Center Transcript (unofficial student copy is sufficient)

One letter of reference to be submitted via email by your adviser (see instructions page).

If you have questions, please contact Rachel Sponzo at [rsponzo@gc.cuny.edu](mailto:rsponzo@gc.cuny.edu).

## APPLICATION INSTRUCTIONS

**The completed application must be submitted no later than 5pm on Tuesday, January 16, 2024.** The applications are to be submitted as per the following instructions.

**Your adviser must submit a letter of recommendation by the same deadline, January 16, 2024.**

### **Instructions for submitting your application:**

1. Combine your cover sheet, proposal (including abstract and bibliography), *curriculum vitae*, and transcript, into a SINGLE file (either as a pdf document or a word document).
  - Use the following format when naming your document:  
**Last Name, First Name, Program**
2. [Email](mailto:fellowshipapps@gc.cuny.edu) the single application file to: [fellowshipapps@gc.cuny.edu](mailto:fellowshipapps@gc.cuny.edu)
3. Complete the [online section of the application](#) through the following form:

Graduate Center Dissertation Fellowship Competition

***\* You must use your Graduate Center email address when you submit both parts of the application. All award notifications will also be sent to your Graduate Center email.***

### **Instructions for Faculty Recommenders**

1. Prepare your reference letter as a regular word or pdf document, on letterhead.
  - Please use the following format when naming your document:  
Student Last Name, First Name
2. Email your letter as an attachment to [fellowshipapps@gc.cuny.edu](mailto:fellowshipapps@gc.cuny.edu).

If you have any questions please contact [rsponzo@gc.cuny.edu](mailto:rsponzo@gc.cuny.edu).

**DISSERTATION FELLOWSHIP APPLICATION COVER SHEET**

**Name:**

**Student EMPLID:**

**Doctoral Level:**

**Doctoral Program:**

**Title of Proposal:**

**Name of Dissertation Adviser who will write a letter of recommendation:**

**Names of Dissertation Committee members:**

## DESCRIPTION OF DISSERTATION FELLOWSHIPS AND AWARDS

All fellowships and grants are contingent on the availability of funds. The Graduate Center reserves the right not to offer specific fellowships, the right to reduce the number of fellowships offered in any given category, the right to reduce the amounts awarded, and the right to alter benefits granted in conjunction with specific awards. Award amounts vary between \$5,000 and \$25,000.

**Special Focus Awards:** Applicants must indicate on the online application if they wish to be considered for any of these awards.

The **American Studies Dissertation Fellowship** will be awarded to a doctoral student whose research intersects with American Studies.

The **Art Science Connect Dissertation Fellowship**, with funding from the James Family Charitable Foundation, will be awarded to a student in any field of the humanities, social sciences, or the sciences pursuing research whose main question is driven by an exploration of topics that intersect art and science and bridges the gap between the two fields. Dissertation Fellows will be expected to participate in activities associated with Art Science Connect, including public programs, conferences, and panels as well as present their research in a public forum. *Application requires an additional statement of applicability of not more than one page highlighting the connection between your research and the theme of the award.*

The **Center for Place, Culture and Politics Dissertation Fellowship** is available to level III students conducting research on a range of contemporary topics. The Center runs a weekly seminar, hosts distinguished lecture series, and organizes conferences following a theme which changes each year. Recent themes have included "Consciousness and Revolution", "Mobilizations and Migrations", "The Agrarian Question", "Revolutionary Arts", and "The State". Information on the CPCP Fellowship theme for 2024-2025 will be posted at: <https://pcp.gc.cuny.edu/seminar-theme/>. Acceptance of the award is contingent on being able to attend (in person) the CPCP's weekly seminar that meets every Wednesday from 10am-12pm during the academic year. *Application requires an additional statement of applicability of not more than one page highlighting the connection between your research and the theme of the award.*

The **Committee on Globalization and Social Change Dissertation Fellowship** is available to students in the humanities and humanistic social sciences such as anthropology, religion, sociology, philosophy, political science, history, English, art history, and comparative literature whose work engages and transects our seminar theme, however broadly and creatively defined. The 2024-2025 theme is TBD and will be posted on the [CGSC website](#) later this semester; see the website for an archived list of past themes. The committee is interested in research that is empirically rich and theoretically informed, focusing on different world areas, historical periods, and conceptual frameworks, and scholars whose thinking crosses traditional academic boundaries. Acceptance of the award is contingent on participation in the weekly CGSC seminar held Tuesday mornings from 10:30am to 12:30pm.

**Marilyn J. Gittell Dissertation Fellowship**, established in honor of the late Political Science Professor at the CUNY Graduate Center, is for a social science doctoral candidate working on areas that concerned Marilyn Gittell, especially research focused on cities, urban politics, public policy, democratic and civic

engagement, social movements, citizenship and governance, and community practices, both domestically and abroad. Fellows will be expected to participate in seminars and activities sponsored by the Marilyn J. Gittell Endowed Chair in Urban Studies.

**Marilyn J. Gittell Dissertation Fellowship in Urban Policy** is available for a dissertation-level minority student from among the Anthropology, History, Political Science or Sociology Programs at the Graduate Center for research focusing on urban policy.

**The Institute for Research on the African Diaspora in the America's and the Caribbean (IRADAC) Dissertation Fellowship** will be awarded to a student in any field of the humanities or social sciences who is completing an interdisciplinary dissertation that treats some significant aspect of the African Diaspora, including the culture and history of African Americans. Fellows will deliver an IRADAC sponsored public lecture about their projects in the spring of the award year. They will also have access to the facilities of the IRADAC offices. In addition, they will be expected to participate in IRADAC activities, particularly those sponsored for and by the IRADAC Fellows.

**Randolph L. Brahm Dissertation Award**, an award for dissertation-level students in History or Political Science whose doctoral research is in the area of Jewish, East European politics and government, or Holocaust-related studies.

**Athena Pollis Fellowship in Human Rights** is for an outstanding student whose dissertation involves international, comparative, or theoretical human rights issues.

**Institute for Education in Retirement (IER) Fellowship** with [LP2](#) member contributions, the IER is offering the Fellowship for Racial and Social Justice to support a doctoral student of high academic merit who shows exceptional promise in any field and is completing a dissertation that addresses race relations, human rights, and social justice; or that treats some significant aspect of the African Diaspora, including the culture and history of African Americans. Fellows will be invited to deliver a talk to LP<sup>2</sup> members on their research. Applications from members of all underrepresented groups are encouraged.

**Ralph Bunche Dissertation Fellowship**, established in honor of the late Nobel Laureate by the Ralph Bunche Institute for International Studies, is for a social science doctoral candidate working on areas that concerned Ralph Bunche, especially the United Nations and multilateralism, international politics, African and Middle Eastern affairs, U.S. foreign policy, race relations, and human rights.

**The Leon Levy Center for Biography Dissertation Fellowship** is available only to students whose dissertations take a biographical approach to their subject matter. Fellows are required to attend monthly seminars throughout the academic year. *Application requires an additional statement of applicability of not more than one page highlighting the connection between your research and the theme of the award.*

**David Garth Dissertation Award in Public Policy**, established through a gift from Bloomberg Philanthropies, is in honor of the political consultant David Garth who advised New York City mayors, senators, and the governors of New York, New Jersey, and Connecticut. The David Garth Dissertation Award will support research on public policy, and the nexus of public policy and public opinion, political communication, political action and campaigns. Preference will be given to students doing research on urban public policy, including the substantive areas of social welfare, health, community development, and immigration integration.

**Pamela Galiber Memorial Award** will be awarded to an African American doctoral student whose research focuses on social, cultural, or economic issues.

**William Randolph Hearst Dissertation Year Award** is to aid a student who is African-American or Latino/a (citizen or permanent resident) in completing the dissertation.

**General Awards and Fellowships:** all qualified applicants will be automatically considered for these awards.

**The B. Altman Foundation Dissertation Fellowship** is for a dissertation-level student from any program.

**Mario Capelloni Dissertation Fellowship**, established by the late Nelly Gabel Capelloni, with the help of estate executor Myron Glucksman, in honor of her husband, is for students of high academic merit who show exceptional promise in their field of study.

**Carell Dissertation Fellowship** was established by Monroe Carell, Jr. for students of high academic merit who plan to pursue careers with limited earnings expectations.

**Kenneth & Mamie Phipps Clark Fellowship**, for students in the social sciences.

**Dissertation Year Fellowship** is for a dissertation-level student from any program.

**The Vartan Gregorian Fellowship**, for students in the humanities.

**Frances Degen Horowitz Dissertation Fellowship** is named in honor of Dr. Horowitz, President Emerita and Professor of Developmental Psychology.

**Harold W. McGraw, Jr. Fellowship**, for students in the humanities.

**Helaine Newstead Dissertation Fellowship in the Humanities**, named in memory of our Professor of English and Comparative Literature.

**Harold M. Proshansky Dissertation Fellowship**, named for the second president of The Graduate Center, who pioneered the study of Environmental Psychology, is for a student whose dissertation involves the human condition in urban settings, focusing on New York City.

**Mina Rees Dissertation Fellowship in the Sciences**, named for our first Graduate Center President and Professor of Mathematics.

**Arthur Schlesinger, Jr. Dissertation Proposal Award**, named for the noted historian and professor emeritus, recognizes an outstanding proposal for research into historical aspects of a topic involving America's past, present, or future.

**Martin M. Spiaggia Dissertation Award in Arts & Humanities** is named in honor of the donor and is for students of high academic merit.

**The 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Fund Fellowship** is for a dissertation-level student from any program.