

GRADUATE DIVISION – SURVIVAL SERIES

ESSENTIAL INFORMATION FOR GRADUATE STUDENTS AT UC-SANTA BARBARA

WHAT SHOULD I BE APPLYING FOR?

Based on the information at: www.ors.duke.edu/find/student/grad/gradtimeline.html

The types of fellowships available to you depend on a number of variables including: your field of study, your interests and your stage in graduate school. Stages can be broken down as follows:

1) “Early” Graduate Student

When: Funding for 1st & 2nd year of graduate school. Often available for students to apply 1 year prior (undergraduate or other) to beginning graduate work.

Funds: Tuition, fees, stipend for living expenses.

Examples:

- The Jacob Javits Fellowship

Deadline: October 15, 2007

<http://www.ed.gov/programs/jacobjavits/index.html>

- The National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellowship

Deadline: November 1, 2007

<http://www.nsf.gov/pubs/2007/nsf07576/nsf07576.pdf>

- Ford Foundation Diversity Fellowship

Deadline: November 15, 2007

<http://www7.nationalacademies.org/fordfellowships/fordpredoc.html>

- The National Defense Science and Engineering Grad Fellowship

Deadline: January 7, 2008

<http://www.asee.org/ndseg/preface.cfm>

2) Predissertation

When: Start of graduate program through the master's or defense of the dissertation proposal. Some sponsors fund master's level students through this category while others may not.

Funds: Research and experiences that aid research, such as travel, language study, and supplies.

Example:

- Fulbright Fellowship

Deadline: October 19, 2007 (or earlier)

www.iie.org/fulbright

- Fulbright-Hays Fellowship

Deadline: November 5, 2007

<http://www.ed.gov/programs/iegpsddrap/index.html>

3) Dissertation/Thesis

When: The "classic" graduate funding category, this is the most widely available type of graduate funding. These grants and fellowships generally cover the period of time from after the defense of the dissertation topic, when the student enters the ABD ("all but dissertation") stage, to the completion of dissertation research.

Funds: Doctoral research and experiences that aid research, such as language study, travel, supplies, and facility use. Living expenses while completing research may also be included. Some grants/fellowships may also cover expenses for master's theses.

Example: - American Educational Research Association Dissertation Grant

Deadlines: August 31, 2007 to be reviewed in September

January 4, 2008 to be reviewed in February

February 22, 2008 to be reviewed in March

<http://www.aera.net/grantsprogram/>

4) Writing up your dissertation

When: This stage covers actual writing process of dissertation, once the graduate student has completed or is nearing completion of their dissertation research. Most of these opportunities fit under the fellowship category, and are designed to enable the student to concentrate mostly or only on writing and completing the dissertation. The majority of these grants are designed for students who will complete their dissertation at or near the end of the award year.

Funds: Tuition and fees, stipend for living expenses, follow-up research needed for completion.

Example: - Spencer Dissertation Fellowship

Deadline: November 2, 2007

<http://www.spencer.org/programs/fellows/dissertation.htm>

5) General Fellowships

These fellowships are available to all graduate students regardless of their status.

Examples: - Many UCSB Central Fellowships

- Departmental Block Grants

TIMELINE FOR DISSERTATION RESEARCH FELLOWSHIPS

Available at: chaser.rutgers.edu/timeline.html

Due Date is in:

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| 18 months | <p>Schedule meetings with advisor to begin to discuss applying for funding.</p> <p>Think about your graduate work thus far and your goals. Are you cultivating the skills and expertise that you need to do your dissertation work? Does your CV and transcript reveal that you are making wise choices to help cultivate your expertise? If you answer no to any of these questions, now is the time to begin to plan to integrate external funding into your academic career and to plan how you will build your CV to be a competitive profile for external funding.</p> |
| 17 months | <p>Research funding options. Begin to understand the funder, why they exist and what they are looking for.</p> |
| 16 months | <p>Begin to cultivate your research network. Set up a time to meet with your advisor to discuss applying for external funding and your progress through your degree. You should plan to apply for funding in about 16 months in order to be able to have funding 24-30 months from now. What do you need to do to be eligible to apply for funding and to have a well-conceived project in time for the application? Develop with your advisor a work plan for the next three years.</p> |
| 15 months | <p>Assess what you will need to do the project (skills, access, contacts, data, preliminary work, etc.) and what you need to do to acquire these skills and resources. Develop a plan for putting these resources in place in time for your funding applications.</p> |
| 14 months | <p>Begin the preliminary research on your topic and begin to build a fundable profile. Are there any small or preliminary research grants that you can apply for in the near future to support a pilot study and help you begin to build a good funding track record.</p> |

NETWORKING AND PROJECT DEVELOPMENT

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| 13 months | <p>Speak with the program officers to learn about the funding programs you are interested in. Learn as much as you can about the application and review process by asking the program officer a series of questions such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ What are the goals of this funding program? ▪ How competitive is this program? ▪ What percentage of applications are funded? ▪ What are you looking for in a competitive application? ▪ What is your review process like? ▪ Will an expert in my field review the proposal? ▪ When will you notify applicants of the results? ▪ If I win a grant or fellowship, how soon can I use the money? ▪ May I hold more than one grant or fellowship with your award? |
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| 12 months | Meet with your graduate program director. Let him/her know that you plan to apply for external funding in the next year. Learn what impact if any this will have on your funding package and find out if you will be able to defer any of your internal funding if you are successful with external funding. |
| 11 months | Meet with your advisor. Assess your progress toward your degree and toward your plan to apply for external funding. Are you making good and timely progress through your degree requirements? How is your research project developing? Are you building your research network and skills to do your project? Are you encountering any problems? What will your problem-solving solutions be? Is there any need to re-adjust the course at this point. |

PREPARING APPLICATION

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| 6 months | Begin to write a draft of the proposal. You should be able to begin to answer the question of why your research is important or novel, how it will be in a conversation with the literature of your field and why your work is significant. |
| 5 months | Continue to work on a draft of your proposal. Seek feedback from your advisor, mentor, and other colleagues and graduate students. If it is not already, your research methods should be formulated and clear. |
| 4 months | Continue to work on a draft of your proposal. Seek feedback from your advisor, mentor, and other colleagues and graduate students. If your application requires a c.v. or personal statement, begin to draft the document, keeping in mind the funder's goals and their profile of a successful applicant. Identify your letter writers, ask them to serve as letter writers, schedule appointments with your letter writers, to discuss their letters, your application and proposal and any concerns that they may have about your work. If your letter writers raise any concerns, discuss them and develop a plan for solving problems and how to keep on track to apply for funding. |
| 3 months | Continue to work on a draft of your proposal and c.v. and/or personal statement. Seek feedback from your advisor, mentor, and other colleagues and graduate students. If your proposal requires one, begin to work on your budget. Keep in mind that there should be continuity between your proposal narrative and your budget. |
| 2 months | Continue to work on a draft of your proposal, c.v. and/or personal statement and budget. Seek feedback from your advisor, mentor, and other colleagues and graduate students. Examine the application forms and determine what needs to be completed and how the application should be processed. Is it an on-line application? Do you need any special software or technology to process the application? Will the application be submitted by the university or you? If the application will be submitted by the university contact the person in charge of submitting it. |

SUBMIT APPLICATION!