EALAC Fellowships Applications

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The Social Distancing Edition

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Types of Fellowships

- Research
- Language
- Travel
- Library
- Academic Year
- Dissertation Research
- Post-doc
- Writing
- Completion
- Departmental

http://ealac.columbia.edu/fellowship-opportunities/

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Other places to find fellowships

- Academic Associations
- Consulates, embassies, cultural centers
- Research centers/institutes on campus
- Professors/senior students
- Other departments with overlapping disciplines
- Blogs dedicated to your country of study
- Government-funded organizations
- Other universities' departmental webpages
- Professors' CVs
- Book Acknowledgements

Parts to an application

- Basic, biographical information
- Abstract
- Project Description
- Statement of Purpose
- Project Proposal
- Personal Statement/Narratives
- Bibliography
- Timetable/Timeline
- Budget
- Letters of Recommendation (typically 2-3)

- Supplementals
  - Transcripts (often uploaded; may have to send official if selected)
  - Proof of ABD
  - Statement of anticipated completion
  - Letter of acceptance from sponsoring professor(s)
  - Curriculum Vitae (CV)
  - Writing Sample

Budget

- Transportation (to/from; locally)
- Housing (and utilities)
- Food
- Insurance (Travel, International/Emergency, Regular)
- University fees/tuition
- Cellphone/Internet
- Research Materials*
- Entertainment*
- Other (technology, special tools)*
- *These might not be covered by fellowship*

Timeline

Research Project:

- Where will you be/what will you do over course of grant
- What progress do you see yourself making (for longer periods, can make broader 2-4 month goals)
- Specific events or benchmarks you see yourself meeting or attending
- May also situation in relation to completion of program

Timeline

Dissertation Writing:

- Research/interviews/archival work
- Outline
- First draft in progress
- First draft finished
- Advisor/Committee review
- Final draft completed
- Final draft approved by advisor/committee
- Submission and graduation dates

Timeline

General academic/career:

- Current status
- Timeline with proposed project
- What will be completed by end of project
- Stages after finishing project (upon returning to campus, expected graduation, etc...)

"Stacking" Fellowships

- One after the other (sequential)
- Overlapping (concurrent)
- "Top Up" (GSAS option)

Honing the first/last paragraphs

- The fellowship to which I am applying
- A very basic explanation of or introduction to my project or research
- Why my project is important, interesting, unique, and a vital contribution to my field
- How this fellowship fits into the larger picture of my academic or career goals

Common Myths

- <u>Statements of Purpose should include:</u>
  - My entire personal history with the country
  - how I came to be interested in this topic
  - previous awards and accolades
  - extremely detailed descriptions and jargon demonstrating my knowledge of subject matter
  - my heartfelt commitment and interest to this field
- I should overstate my case
- I should request the max amount of money possible
- I should include unrequested materials

Questions to get started:

- What is my project?
- Where and when will it take place?
- Who/what do I want to study? Who do I want to work with?
- Why do I need to do this project?
- Why do I need this fellowship?
- How is my project a good fit for this fellowship?
- What is unique and interesting about my project? Why is it compelling?
- What is unique and interesting about my take on this project?
- Why would I want to fund this project if I were making decisions?
- What necessary groundwork have I already done? What more do I need to do?

Questions for review

- Do I answer the question/prompt?
- Does my application match the fellowship's scope?
- Is my project obvious in the first paragraph?
- Do I answer all of the required sections clearly and concisely?
- Do I indicate "return on investment?"
- Do I demonstrate an the full arc of my proposed project? Is it vague?
- Do I indicate awareness of my primary sources and major resources?
- Do I make the case for how new/innovative my project is?
- What is my tone? Do I sound professional and confident, or pleading and uncertain?

Annoying necessities before departure

- US University affiliation:*
  - Do I remain enrolled or take a leave of absence?
  - Do I maintain my university health insurance?
  - Do I maintain my university housing?
  - *I can provide feedback based upon my experience, but I am not an administrator, and I am not aware of updates and changes to policies that have happened since going through these situations myself. Moreover, there are a variety of factors that can influence each person's situation and experience. As such, it is best to verify questions with a department administrator.*
- What are my tax obligations?**
  - **Taxes are complicated, and I don't want to be sued. I can provide information based upon what I did, but I am not proficient in tax law (either in the US or anywhere else). Please verify with an accountant or local tax professional for accurate information on filing and paying taxes and tax obligations.*
- Health Insurance
- Registering (STEP, university)