

CLASS Summer Graduate Fellowship for Research Excellence Summer 2025

Purpose

This fellowship provides summer funding to support the research and writing of master's theses and doctoral dissertations. The purpose of this endowed competitive fellowship is to promote graduate student research excellence in the College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences at the University of Houston. These fellowships aim to help students from varied backgrounds and research fields who are carrying out ambitious projects which would benefit from additional support.

Application Deadline: Friday, January 31, 2025, noon (12 pm) (CST)

Terms

These summer research fellowships provide a stipend to support research and writing efforts for students writing masters theses (including MFA) or doctoral dissertations. Recipients can use these funds in various ways, such as paying basic living expenses, or defraying research travel costs or other research expenses (such as book buying or acquiring copies of archival documents)

- The rate for summer 2025 will be \$6,000 for doctoral students and \$3,000 for master's students.
- Because these funds are intended to free up students to focus on their research, recipients may not combine this fellowship with paid summer teaching or research jobs through the University of Houston.
- An extra \$1500 supplement is available for students with extraordinarily high research costs, such as foreign travel or need to pay participant research costs. Students requesting this supplement must explain the need in the application.

Eligibility

This fellowship is open to CLASS master's and doctoral students with at least a 3.0 GPA in their program, and who are currently writing a thesis (master's level) or dissertation (doctoral level). Typically, recipients will be at the point in their studies when they are focusing on their thesis or dissertation research, but because each student's research needs are different, applicants should explain how their research will benefit from funding at this specific stage in their studies.

Candidates must be nominated by their department. Departments may nominate up to two candidates at each level (PhD and MA/MFA). Departments with more than 50 students at a given level (MA or PhD) may nominate up to three candidates for that level.

Selection Criteria

The college selection committee encourages applications from graduate students in all fields of study in CLASS. In particular, the selection committee will take account of:

- The quality and clarity of the proposed summer research plans;

- A record of excellence;
- The likely impact of the project, including the potential of the project to enrich perspectives in the student's chosen field.

Application Materials

Departments should provide the following in a single PDF document:

- **Nomination form** from the Graduate Advisor in the student's department, affirming that the department endorses the application and that the student is in good academic standing.
- **Nomination letter** from student's thesis or dissertation advisor or other faculty member addressing how the student and student's research meet the selection criteria.
- **Research statement** which briefly explains the overall research objectives of the thesis/dissertation, and details which part(s) of the project will be the research focus during the funded summer. This statement should explain how the funding will facilitate successful completion of the project. It should specifically address how the timing of the funding fits with the project timeline. (Maximum 2 pages single spaced, minimum 11-point font).
- **Supplemental expenses statement (optional)** If the applicant is requesting supplemental funding for very high research expenses, the research statement should include an addendum (up to a half page) briefly explaining the purposes for which these funds would be used, and detailing why expected expenses will be particularly high (for example, foreign travel to visit archives or conduct interviews, participant costs, data acquisition costs, etc.)
- **Impact statement** which briefly explains how the student's research project, and/or the personal perspectives the student brings to it, will contribute to enriching perspectives in the student's chosen field. (Maximum 1 page single spaced).
- **Academic CV** (Maximum 2 pages).

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Please combine all documents into a single PDF labelled as follows:

SummerFellowship_[degree level: either "MA" or "PHD"]_lastname

Example: SummerFellowship_MA_Jones

Submit to classgrt@uh.edu using the subject line of "Summer Graduate Fellowship"