



## Dissertation Fellowship Guidelines

### Ann G. Wylie and the Lee Thornton Fellowships

(FOR AY 2020-21)

The Graduate School Dissertation Fellowship program provides support to University of Maryland doctoral candidates who are in the latter stages of writing their dissertations.

Eligible students will have excellent qualifications and plan to graduate by August 2021. *The specific goal of this fellowship is to provide students with time to focus on writing and completing their dissertation in order to reduce time-to-degree, increase degree completion, and enhance the quality of the graduate student experience.*

Programs may nominate up to 2 students for the Dissertation Fellowship Program.

**Ann G. Wylie Dissertation Fellowship:** In 2005, the Graduate School inaugurated the Ann G. Wylie Dissertation Fellowship program. The Wylie Dissertation Fellowship is a full-time semester-long fellowship which can be used in Fall 2020 or Spring 2021 semester.

Approximately 70 Ann G. Wylie Dissertation Fellowships will be awarded for AY 20-21.

**Lee Thornton Dissertation Fellowship:** In 2013, Dr. Lee Thornton established this endowed fund to support the writing of dissertations at the University of Maryland that serve the public good. This might include scholarship that addresses issues related to society's present and future needs, or research that produces findings applicable to those needs. The Lee Thornton Dissertation Fellowship is a full-time semester-long fellowship which can be used in Fall 2020 or Spring 2021 semester. One student will be awarded the Lee Thornton Dissertation Fellowship.

*Dr. Lee Thornton was one of the nation's most distinguished broadcast journalists and worked at the University of Maryland from 1997 – 2013. Professor Thornton held the Richard Eaton Chair in Broadcast News at the Philip Merrill College of Journalism, a first of its kind for the campus and the nation. In 2008, she became interim Dean of the Philip Merrill College of Journalism, the first woman dean of color on the campus. Later, she served as Associate Provost for Equity and Diversity and Ombuds Officer for the Graduate School. A dedicated campus citizen, Professor Thornton was named Outstanding Woman of the Year in 2011 by the President's Commission on Women's Issues.*

All nominees will first be considered for the Wylie Dissertation Fellowship. Nominees who are doing scholarship or research that "serves the public good" will be considered for the Lee Thornton Dissertation Fellowship.

**NOMINATION DEADLINE: Noon, Wednesday, February 12, 2020\*.**

\*Students interested in being nominated should consult with their department about the internal selection process and deadlines.

## Fellowship Stipend and Benefits

Semester Dissertation Fellows will receive a \$15,000 stipend, a Candidacy Tuition Award (dissertation 899 credits only), and a credit for the student's mandatory fees during the semester in which the fellowship is taken.

Fellows may also request a reimbursement for the cost of an individual health insurance plan by completing the [Health Insurance Reimbursement Request Form](#). Familial health insurance is not covered.

*Important: Students who receive and accept the Ann G. Wylie Dissertation Fellowship or the Lee Thornton Dissertation Fellowship agree not to accept an assistantship, other full-time fellowship, or employment of \$2,000 or more during the period of the Fellowship. Supplemental fellowships may be accepted.*

## Eligibility

The Graduate School Dissertation Fellowships are one-semester fellowships that support University of Maryland doctoral candidates who have excellent qualifications and are in the latter stages of writing their dissertations.

Eligible candidates must be advanced to candidacy by June 1, 2020 **AND** expect to graduate by August 2021.

Students may be awarded a Semester Dissertation Fellowship only once. Fellowships may not be deferred.

## Nominations

Doctoral programs may nominate no more than two graduate students for the Graduate School Dissertation Fellowship program. Please note, specializations and/or concentration areas within a degree program are not considered to be separate programs.

The department must prepare the nomination package as a single PDF file. Students should be made aware of any internal departmental deadlines.

## Fellowship Selection Process

The Graduate School appoints a 12-Member multi-disciplinary panel who will review and evaluate all of the Semester Dissertation Fellowship proposals. **Students are expected to write for a general audience**, since the panel may or may not include faculty from their field of study. Committee members will be instructed to evaluate the proposals based on

- the student's achievements and promise
- the excellence of the research proposal
- work done on the project to date (if any)
- the potential importance of the dissertation to the student's field of research, and
- the likelihood of the student's ability to complete the dissertation during the fellowship year and graduate by August 2021.

It is expected that the cohort of awardees will reflect the University's commitment to diversity.

## Nomination Packages

Nomination packages from departments or programs must include:

1. a **Nomination Cover Sheet**; (*found on page 4*)
2. an **abstract** of no more than 500 words written for an educated lay audience. The abstract should include: a) the title; b) a description of the study; c) the significance of the study; and d) sources of information or data, if applicable.
3. a student-authored **one-page statement** of: a) work completed; b) work remaining; c) timeline; and d) expected completion date;
4. the student's **curriculum vitae** (two pages);
5. a **letter from the student's advisor** describing the quality and accomplishments of the student, the significance of the student's dissertation project, and an account of how this fellowship would have an impact on the student's ability to progress toward his or her degree by August 2020.
6. a **letter from the student's Director of Graduate Studies**. The student's Director of Graduate Studies should prepare a letter that confirms the student is in good standing and provides information about the student's academic discipline which will inform the committee about disciplinary and programmatic differences. Please comment on the following:
  - the department's (or field's) expectation for time to degree;
  - a typical publication record for a student in this field; and/or
  - the student's timeline for the project.

*Please note: If the student's advisor is also the Director of Graduate Studies, the second letter should come from the Program or Department Chair.*

Programs must assemble the above materials in a single PDF file and submit to the Graduate School using the Awards System at <http://apps.gradschool.umd.edu/GSAwardsSystem/>.

## Reporting

At the end of the semester, the student will submit a brief but specific report (no more than one page in length) on the work accomplished during the period of the fellowship and plans for graduation.

## Contact

Please direct all questions to Robyn Kotzker, Assistant Director for the Office of Funding Opportunities ([rkotzker@umd.edu](mailto:rkotzker@umd.edu), 301.405.0281)



Semester Dissertation Fellowship
Nomination Cover Sheet

A complete nomination package must include: 1) the Nomination Cover Sheet; 2) an abstract; 3) a student-written statement; 4) the student's curriculum vitae; 5) a letter from the advisor; and 6) a letter from the Director of Graduate Studies. Nominations are due by noon on Wednesday, February 12, 2020.

The department must prepare the nomination package as a single PDF file. Students should be made aware of any internal departmental deadlines. Programs may nominate up to two students

Name \_\_\_\_\_ UID number: \_\_\_\_\_

Program/Department & College \_\_\_\_\_ UMD Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Title of Dissertation: \_\_\_\_\_

Advisor: \_\_\_\_\_

Director of Graduate Studies: \_\_\_\_\_

1. In what semester did you complete your course work and other requirements for the degree? \_\_\_\_\_

2. On what date did you pass your prospectus/proposal examination? \_\_\_\_\_

3. On what date did you (or will you) advance to candidacy? \_\_\_\_\_

4. When do you expect to defend your dissertation (month & year)? \_\_\_\_\_

5. GPA: \_\_\_\_\_

6. Does your study require IACUC or IRB approval? \_\_\_\_\_

If so, please provide the appropriate protocol number and date of approval \_\_\_\_\_

7. What was your source of support (e.g., TA, RA, fellowship, self, other [specify]) during these years?

- AY 18-19 (Fall 2018 / Spring 2019) \_\_\_\_\_
• AY 19-20 (Fall 2019 / Spring 2020) \_\_\_\_\_

8. Are you currently supported by a pre-doctoral fellowship or research grant? Yes No
If so, do you expect that support to continue in AY 2020-2021? Yes No

9. What other anticipated or secured support do you have for 2020-2021? \_\_\_\_\_

10. In which semester would you prefer to use the fellowship? Fall Spring

For informational purposes: Gender \_\_\_\_\_ Ethnic Identification \_\_\_\_\_

Students: Please submit your application materials to your program by the department's internal deadline
Departments/Programs: Please submit nomination package to http://apps.gradschool.umd.edu/GSAwardsSystem/



## Semester Dissertation Fellowship Advisor / DGS Letter Instructions (AY 2020-21)

The Dissertation Fellowships (Ann G. Wylie and Lee Thornton) are one semester full-time fellowships that provide a student with a stipend of \$15,000 and candidacy tuition remission. Eligible students are on track for graduation by August 2021.

The Fellowship Committee will base their selection decisions on the student's achievements and promise, the excellence of the research proposal, work done on the project to date (*if any*), the potential importance of the dissertation to the student's field of research, and the likelihood of the student's ability to complete the dissertation during the fellowship year and graduate by August 2021.

A letter from the Advisor and a letter from the Director of Graduate Studies are required for nomination.

**Letter #1 - Advisor Letter:** The student's advisor should prepare a letter describing of the excellence of the student, the significance of the student's dissertation project, and an account of how the fellowship will have an impact on the student's ability to advance toward their degree.

**Letter #2 - DGS Letter:** The student's Director of Graduate Studies should prepare a letter that confirms the student is in good standing and provides information about the student's academic discipline in order to better inform the committee about disciplinary and programmatic differences. Please comment on the following:

- the department's (or field's) expectation for time to degree;
- a typical publication record for a student in this field; and/or
- the student's timeline for the project.

*If the student's advisor is also the Director of Graduate Studies, the Program/Department Chair should submit the second letter as described above.*

These letters must be appended to the rest of the nomination materials to create a single PDF file. The complete nomination package (a single PDF file) is due to the Graduate School by **noon on Wednesday, February 12, 2020**. Departments/Programs must submit the nomination package(s) using the Graduate School Awards System at <http://apps.gradschool.umd.edu/GSAwardsSystem/>

Complete Semester Dissertation Fellowship guidelines can be found on the Graduate School [website](#).

