

# Alumni Association Dissertation Award

# Information

Office of Fellowships and Awards, 314 Kern Building, University Park, PA 16802; 814-865-2514; 814-863-5368 (fax)

**Purpose** To provide funding and recognition to outstanding full-time doctoral students who have passed their comprehensive exams and have received approval of the dissertation topic, or to M.F.A. students in their final year.

**Number of Awards** A minimum of two awards of \$5,000 for each of the following categories: Fine Arts and Humanities; Social Sciences - Applied and Basic; Physical and Computational Sciences - Applied and Basic; Life and Health Sciences; and Engineering. In the event that two nominations are not received in a given category, those fellowships will be awarded in another category at the discretion of the Dean of the Graduate School.

**Eligibility** The funds will be awarded directly to the students and WILL NOT replace existing college or departmental support. Applicants must have completed all requirements for their degree, except for the writing and defense of the dissertation. These requirements include having completed all coursework, language requirements, and the comprehensive examination, and having received the approval of the dissertation topic.

Funds will be disbursed into the students' accounts during the fall 2002 semester. Students must be registered for subj. 601 or nine credits (D.Ed. or M.F.A. students) in order to be eligible for the funds during the fall semester.

**Application** Because of the limited number of awards available, one nomination per program may be submitted to the college's Associate Dean for Graduate Studies. The Associate Dean will forward a maximum of **two applications** to the Office of Fellowships and Awards. For the IGDPs, nominations should be submitted to the Senior Associate Dean of the Graduate School. Three copies of the application materials should be sent to the relevant program chair and should include:

- A completed coversheet (see attached).
- A descriptive summary of the dissertation topic suitable for an audience of educated lay persons.
- An abstract of the dissertation discussing the significant aspects of the work.
- A reference letter from the dissertation adviser evaluating the merits of the proposed project and discussing the contributions the student has made to his/her field i.e., presentations, papers, or other evidence of superiority.
- An unofficial transcript of graduate work taken at Penn State.

**Deadline and Notification** Program chairs should submit all three copies of their nomination to the college Associate Dean for Graduate Studies for his/her signature. Associate Deans will then forward three copies of the materials to the:

Office of Fellowships and Awards  
The Graduate School  
314 Kern Graduate Building

The deadline for submission of all materials to the Graduate School is March 29, 2002. Fellowship recipients will be designated by the end of April 2002.

