

# Description

## Program Description

WELCOME TO THE ONLINE APPLICATION FOR THE MELLON/ACLS DISSERTATION INNOVATION FELLOWSHIP.

ACLS invites applications for Mellon/ACLS Dissertation Innovation Fellowships, which provide a year of support for doctoral students preparing to embark on innovative dissertation research projects. This program is made possible by a grant from the Mellon Foundation.

Mellon/ACLS Dissertation Innovation Fellowships support graduate students in the humanities and social sciences who show promise of leading their fields in important new directions. The fellowships are designed to intervene at the formative stage of dissertation development, before research and writing are advanced. The program seeks to expand the range of research methodologies, formats, and areas of inquiry traditionally considered suitable for the dissertation, with a particular focus on supporting scholars who can build a more diverse, inclusive, and equitable academy.

ACLS believes that humanistic scholarship benefits from inclusivity of voices, narratives, and subjects that have historically been underrepresented or under-studied in academe. We especially welcome applications from PhD candidates whose perspectives and/or research projects cultivate greater openness to new sources of knowledge, innovation in scholarly communication, and, above all, responsiveness to the interests and histories of people of color and other historically marginalized communities, including (but not limited to) Black/African American, Hispanic/Latinx, and Indigenous communities from around the world; people with disabilities; queer, trans, and gender nonconforming people; and people of diverse socioeconomic backgrounds. We also believe that institutional diversity enhances the scholarly enterprise, and we encourage applications from doctoral students from all types of institutions in the United States.

The program supports projects that push the traditional approaches to dissertation research in new directions. The strongest applications will show evidence of thoughtful plans for engaging the sources, resources, scholars, and communities – on campus and/or off – necessary to advance their projects. Fellows might design a fellowship year that includes:

- directed interdisciplinary research and methodological training that pushes beyond the scope of their field's norms with a variety of faculty at and/or outside their home institutions;
- exploration of new modes of scholarly communication and dissertation design;
- intensive digital methods training and research;
- collaboration with community partners;
- a short-term practicum with a think-tank or social justice organization to develop experience with applied methods, site-based research involving community-engaged or collaborative approaches.

The list above is by no means exhaustive. ACLS seeks to support a range of innovation in doctoral research — trans- or interdisciplinary, digital, collaborative, critical, or methodological — as well as innovative forms and modes of publication. ACLS has long supported interdisciplinary work and collaboration with partners outside of the academy through our various fellowship programs, and the program would welcome proposals from

graduate students, in consultation with advisors and/or departmental directors of graduate study, that engage with scholars from other institutions, disciplines, or outside of the academy.

These fellowships also support the expansion of an applicant's advisory network through external mentorship. The external mentor, who might come from another division of the university, another academic institution, or from beyond the academy, should be selected for the mentor's capacity to offer critical perspective and expertise on the fellow's project.

ACLS will award up to 45 fellowships in this competition for a one-year term beginning between July and September 2024 for nine to twelve months, covering the 2024-25 academic year. The fellowship may be carried out in residence at the fellow's home institution or at any other appropriate site for the research. These fellowships may not be held concurrently with any other fellowship or grant.

The total award includes a \$40,000 stipend for the fellowship year, as well as \$3,000 for research and travel, and up to \$5,000 in professional development funds to support skills acquisition or additional research to support innovative/expansive directions. An additional \$2,000 is available as a stipend for the external mentor.

Before beginning your application, you will be asked several questions designed to determine preliminary eligibility for this program. Once you have answered these basic eligibility questions, please read all instructions, including those in the REFERENCE LETTERS and PROPOSAL UPLOAD sections, before beginning to fill out the application form.

Completed applications must be submitted online no later than 9:00 PM Eastern Daylight Time, October 25, 2023. Notifications will be sent via email in early April 2024. Click (<https://www.acls.org/competitions/mellon-acls-dissertation-innovation-fellowship/>) for more information.

## ELIGIBILITY

The basic eligibility criteria for applicants are outlined below. As opposed to fellowship programs that support dissertations where writing and research is well underway, advanced, or nearing completion, this program intends to intervene at the formative stages of project development. Given the variation in graduate student trajectories, and the variation of curricular requirements across departments and schools, this program's eligibility window covers a varying a flexible period in the middle of doctoral study. Some applicants may be applying in the year immediately before candidacy, or the year in which they have just achieved ABD status, to support the very stretch of work as a PhD candidate; others may seek to expand their field/methodological horizons at a relatively earlier stage of their graduate studies. As described in the criteria below, the program requires applicants to have completed all required coursework in their doctoral curriculum by the time the fellowship commences. Individuals must be enrolled full-time and may not accept teaching or research assistantships, other major fellowships, internships, or similar internal or external awards during fellowship tenure.

Applicants must:

- Be a PhD student in a humanities or social science department in the United States.(1)
- Be able to take up a full year (9-12 months) of sustained specialized research and training, released from any program/departmental responsibilities (assistantship, teaching, administrative) in the 2024-25 academic year.
- Have completed at least two years and all required coursework in the PhD programs in which they are

currently enrolled by the start of the fellowship term.

- Have not advanced to PhD candidacy/ABD status prior to January 1, 2023.
- Have not previously applied for this fellowship more than once.

(1) The Mellon/ACLS Dissertation Innovation Fellowship program does not accept applications from students receiving professional or applied PhDs, terminal degrees that are not a PhD (such as an EdD or MFA), or PhDs outside of humanities and social science departments, including the following disciplines: business, clinical or counseling psychology, creative or performing arts, education, engineering, filmmaking, law, library and information sciences, life/physical sciences, public administration, public health or medicine, public policy, social work, or social welfare. If you are unsure whether your department or interdisciplinary program qualifies you for this fellowship program, please email [fellowships@accls.org](mailto:fellowships@accls.org) (mailto:fellowships@accls.org) with a brief summary of your affiliation.

## APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS

Applications must be submitted online and must include:

- Completed application form.
- Proposal (no more than seven pages, double spaced, in Arial or Helvetica 11-point font, including any footnotes or endnotes).
  - The applicant should describe the aims of their research and clearly explain how they will advance those aims during the fellowship period.
  - The proposal should also include a description of the training, workshops, travel, research permissions, or anything else the applicant feels will be necessary to advance the project during the fellowship term. For any of these items, but especially in the case of research permissions, how will you go about securing them? (See our FAQ (<https://www.accls.org/faqs/faq-mellon-accls-dissertation-innovation-fellowship/>) on research permissions.)
  - If the applicant has already identified an external mentor, please note the mentor in the proposal and describe how that individual was selected. If the mentor is yet to be determined, please provide a brief description of what qualities and capacities you will seek within a mentor. What kinds of perspectives would this mentor bring to your project?
  - The most effective proposal will clearly describe the applicant's innovative approach to their dissertation project and make a compelling argument for why the timing of the fellowship would be ideal for their proposed research and training and within the context of the full timeline of their doctoral studies. Applicants should also detail how they will measure their own success in the fellowship year.
- Optional: Up to two additional pages of images, musical scores, or other similar supporting non-text materials, without annotation.
- A one-page timeline of fellowship year activity with provisional sketch of post-fellowship trajectory, outlining the time leading up to the completion of the dissertation. All applicants must use the timeline template provided by ACLS (<https://www.accls.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/06/Project-timeline-template-Dissertation-Innovation-Fellowship-2023-24-competition.docx>).
- Bibliography (without annotation, no more than two pages in Arial or Helvetica 11-point font).
- Short personal statement (no more than two pages, double spaced, in Arial or Helvetica 11-point font) describing your journey as a scholar and how your work comes together at the nexus of personal experience, research interests, and desire to shift the forms and formats of academic research.
- A brief work sample (whole or excerpt, no more than fifteen pages total, double spaced, including any

images and footnotes or endnotes, in Arial or Helvetica 11-point font), including a brief description of context and the sample's relation to the proposed project.

- One letter of recommendation. The letter must come from the applicant's dissertation advisor, or a faculty member eligible to be the advisor.
- A statement from the applicant's institution (preferably from the applicant's department chair, director of graduate studies, or dean). The provided form will ask the institutional representative to attest that (1) if the applicant holds a multi-year financial award from the institution and a fellowship is awarded, this support would be paused for the duration of the fellowship and the applicant would be allowed to retain and resume the remainder of that support in subsequent years; (2) the institution will allow the fellow to remain enrolled during the fellowship year and will waive tuition and fees; and (3) the intention of the fellowship is to promote non-traditional direction setting for the sake of valuing innovations in scholarly methods and subject, and the institution believes that its graduate curriculum and progress-charting for students can respect and accommodate this exploration of non-traditional approaches to scholarship.

Please note: ACLS requires all applicants to have an ORCID iD. Learn more (<https://info.orcid.org/what-is-orcid/>). Transcripts are not required.

## EVALUATION CRITERIA

Reviewers in this program are asked to evaluate all eligible proposals on the following criteria:

- The potential of the project to advance the field(s) of study in which it is proposed and make an original and significant contribution to knowledge.
- The potential of the project to expand the prevailing norms of what constitutes important doctoral research through its innovative format or formats, its novel subject matter, methodology, or theoretical framework, or its meaningful engagement with an interdisciplinary and/or community partner. ACLS seeks applicants who have a strong grasp of the existing norms and trends in their primary discipline of study, and who have taken advantage of the opportunities available in their department and campus to advance their training and scholarly projects.
- The feasibility of the proposed project and the likelihood that the applicant will execute the work within the proposed time frame (during and after the fellowship term).
- Fulfillment of one or more of the following factors:
  - Applicant's membership in one or more groups that have been historically underrepresented in the professoriate, including but not limited to Black/African Americans, Latinx/Hispanic Americans, Native Americans, and Pacific Islanders.
  - The project's thoughtful engagement with communities that are historically underrepresented in higher education and the potential for this experience to shape research.
  - Scholarship and scholarly practice that is responsive to the interests and histories of people of color and other historically marginalized communities.

Continue

# Eligibility

## Eligibility

The basic eligibility criteria for applicants are outlined in the bullets below. As opposed to fellowship programs that support dissertations where writing and research is underway, advanced, or nearing completion, this program intends to intervene at the formative stages of project development.

Applicants must:

- Be a PhD student in a humanities or social science department in the United States.(1)
- Be able to take up a full year (9-12 months) of sustained specialized research and training, released from program/departmental responsibilities (assistantship, teaching, administrative), in the 2024-25 academic year.
- Have completed at least two years within the PhD programs in which they are currently enrolled, and all required coursework for the program, by the start of the fellowship term.
- Have not achieved PhD candidacy/ABD status before January 1, 2023.

(1) The Mellon/ACLS Dissertation Innovation Fellowship program does not accept applications from students receiving professional or applied PhDs, terminal degrees that are not a PhD (such as an EdD or MFA), or PhDs outside of humanities and social science departments, including the following disciplines: business, clinical or counseling psychology, creative or performing arts, education, engineering, filmmaking, law, library and information sciences, life/physical sciences, public administration, public health or medicine, public policy, social work, or social welfare. If you are unsure whether your department or interdisciplinary program qualifies you for this fellowship program, please email [fellowships@acsls.org](mailto:fellowships@acsls.org) (mailto:fellowships@acsls.org) with a brief summary of your affiliation.

Continue

# Evaluation Criteria

## Evaluation Criteria

Peer reviewers in this program are asked to evaluate all eligible proposals on the following criteria:

1. The potential of the project to advance the field(s) of study in which it is proposed and make an original and significant contribution to knowledge.
2. The potential of the project to expand the prevailing norms of what constitutes important doctoral research through its innovative format or formats, its novel methodology, subject matter, or theoretical framework, or its meaningful engagement with an interdisciplinary and/or community partner. ACLS seeks applicants who have a strong grasp of the existing norms and trends in their primary discipline of study, and who have taken advantage of the opportunities available in their department and campus to advance their training and scholarly projects.
3. The feasibility of the proposed project and the likelihood that the applicant will execute the work within the proposed time frame (during and after the fellowship term).
4. Fulfillment of one or more of the following factors:
  - Membership in one or more groups that have been historically underrepresented in the professoriate, including but not limited to Black/African Americans, Latinx/Hispanic Americans, Native Americans, and Pacific Islanders.
  - Engagement with communities that are historically underrepresented in higher education and the potential for this experience to shape research and pedagogy.
  - Scholarship and/or scholarly practice that is responsive to the interests and histories of people of color and other historically marginalized communities.

Continue

# Instructions

## Instructions

You may make as many visits to your application as you wish, and revise any information in your application until it has been submitted. In order to be considered, your application must be complete and in SUBMITTED status at 9:00 PM Eastern Daylight Time, October 25, 2023. You should complete the REFERENCE LETTERS section as soon as possible since your letter writers will also have until the application deadline (October 25) to submit their letters.

This application consists of three parts: the application form itself, the uploaded documents (see PROPOSAL UPLOAD), and reference letters (see REFERENCE LETTERS).

BEFORE BEGINNING the application form, please read the Instructions regarding the PROPOSAL UPLOAD and the REFERENCE LETTERS, as well as the following technical instructions.

### A. HOW TO SAVE AND SUBMIT YOUR DATA.

1. Do not use your browser's "BACK" or "FORWARD" buttons for navigation. Instead, use the menu on the left to navigate between screens or the "SAVE AND CONTINUE" button at the bottom of each screen to take you to the next application screen.
2. You must SAVE each time you leave a screen. If you do not click on SAVE, anything entered since you last hit SAVE on that screen will be lost. (Any work from a previous session will be retained, but any new entries will be lost.) The SAVE button is on the bottom of your screen.
3. You may work on your application in as many sessions as you wish, and the status of your application will be IN PROCESS until you submit it. Once you are satisfied that your application is complete, you must go to the SUBMIT APPLICATION screen and select SUBMIT APPLICATION. Once your application has been SUBMITTED, it cannot revert to IN PROCESS status.
4. When you have completed your application, pause to check it one last time. We strongly suggest that you print and read your application before submitting it, so that you can be sure there are no further revisions you wish to make. Your print copy should include your uploaded document.
5. Your application status bar must show SUBMITTED at 9:00 PM Eastern Daylight Time, October 25, 2023 in order for it to be considered. ACLS will take no responsibility for applications that are not in SUBMITTED status at the deadline. Once your application has been SUBMITTED, even if it was submitted before the final deadline, no changes will be permitted.
6. We strongly urge you to print out and save a copy of the final version of your SUBMITTED application. Your print copy should include your uploaded document.

### B. HOW TO ENTER DATA.

1. You may begin completing the application at any section.
2. What you type into the form is exactly what will be seen by our reviewers. Therefore, please fill out the form carefully, paying attention to spelling, punctuation, grammar, and case. (For instance, do not use all caps.)

3. Text boxes will hold only a limited amount of text. Where longer answers are permitted, the number of available characters will normally be indicated. We suggest that you type rather than paste your response. If you paste your response, be sure your character count does not exceed the limit: excess text may appear on the screen but will not print and will not be visible to reviewers. Examine your print application to be sure your response is complete.
4. Dates should always be entered in the format mm/yyyy or mm/dd/yyyy where indicated. Where an entry continues into the present, please simply leave the ending date blank (mm/yyyy - [blank]).
5. Begin typing all answers at the extreme left hand side of the response area or box; do not leave a space or indent at the beginning of your answer.

### C. HOW TO GET HELP.

1. If you have questions about the application process, please consult FAQ. If your question is not answered there, click on the "OFA HELP" link that appears on the blue bar at the top of each screen to submit your query.
2. If you are unable to use the "OFA HELP" link that appears on the blue bar at the top of each screen (after this one), contact ofahelp@acsls.org (mailto:ofahelp@acsls.org) with questions. (Please use the "OFA HELP" link instead if possible.)

Good luck with your application!

Continue



# Contact Information

The information you enter in the Common Profile sections (Contact, Professional Background, Education) will be retained for this application and copied to any other fellowship or grant application you undertake in this competition year. You may edit the information in future applications; however, it will not overwrite data in previously submitted applications.

## Contact Information

Salutation

First Name

Middle Name/Initial

Last Name

Suffix

Preferred Pronouns

Primary Email Address

(should be valid through May 2024)

## Mailing Information

Address

City

State

(If your address is not within the United States, please use this field to complete the address information.)

Zip/Postal Code

(if using a ZIP-plus-4 code, please include hyphen)

Country

Telephone

(If not United States)

Which is this address?

Save Save and Continue

# Education

## Education

What is your highest level of education?

- PhD
- Pursuing PhD
- Master's
- BA/BS

## Other Degrees

List any additional degrees

(150 max character limit: *character count = 0*)

## Languages

List up to six non-English languages you can use, indicating proficiency in reading, speaking, and writing. (*Use E=Excellent, G=Good, F=Fair or less, N/A=Not applicable.*) *If you are either a Native Speaker or Heritage Speaker of a language, please indicate by checking the appropriate box.*

Language	Reading	Speaking	Writing	Native Speaker	Heritage Speaker
<input type="text"/>	* <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/>	* <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/>	* <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="text"/>	* <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/>	* <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/>	* <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="text"/>	* <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/>	* <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/>	* <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Language	Reading	Speaking	Writing	Native Speaker	Heritage Speaker
<input type="text"/>	* <input type="button" value="v"/>	* <input type="button" value="v"/>	* <input type="button" value="v"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="text"/>	* <input type="button" value="v"/>	* <input type="button" value="v"/>	* <input type="button" value="v"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="text"/>	* <input type="button" value="v"/>	* <input type="button" value="v"/>	* <input type="button" value="v"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Save

Save and Continue

# Professional Background

## Current Position

Rank / Title

Select One



(Please choose the most appropriate from the list. If you have no current affiliation, please select "Independent Scholar.")

If you do not hold a faculty appointment, what is the exact title of your current position?

(150 max character limit: *character count = 0*)

Discipline

(Please indicate here the discipline in which you primarily publish, research, and/or teach. This may be included in an academic title, if you hold one, for example Assistant Professor of French Literature, Lecturer of Philosophy, etc. Write only the name of your discipline, not your title.)

Specialization

Department

Institution

To ensure proper processing of your application, your institution's name must be displayed correctly. Enter a few letters of your institution's name to search against our database. Use the full name, not an acronym or abbreviation.

Date you began this position

 / 

(mm/yyyy)

Second Institution  
(if applicable)

If you are currently affiliated with more than one institution, please list the second institution here.

Date you began this position

 / 

(mm/yyyy)

## Positions Held

List positions held (professional, teaching, administrative, curatorial), beginning with the position immediately preceding the one you currently hold. Give the name of the institution, title, and approximate dates of employment for each.

*Please remember:*

- use only numbers in the date fields, for example, 09/2015
- use the format mm/yyyy throughout
- where an entry continues into the present, leave the "To" field blank

Institution/Employer

Title

From

 / 

To

/

Institution/Employer

Title

From

/

To

/

Institution/Employer

Title

From

/

To

/

Institution/Employer

Title

From

 / 

To

 / 

Institution/Employer

Title

From

 / 

To

 / 

Save    Save and Continue



# Program Questions

 PhD

Start date of PhD program

 / 

(mm/yyyy)


Eligibility is restricted to doctoral students who have completed two years and all coursework required by their programs and have attained PhD candidacy/ABD status no earlier than January 1, 2023. If your progress within your doctoral program has been delayed or interrupted due to special circumstances (including those related to medical leave, child or elder care, or the Covid-19 pandemic), please note this below. Your referee should note these circumstances as well in their letter.

(1000 max character limit: *character count = 0*)

Save

Save and Continue

# Demographic Information

 Thank you for your responses to the following demographic questions. Your answers help us better understand the communities we are serving through this fellowship program and support our goal of promoting inclusive excellence in the humanities and interpretive social sciences.

I identify my gender as

I prefer not to answer this question.

With which group or groups do you most identify?

- Non-Hispanic White
- Black or African American
- Latina/o/x or Hispanic
- American Indian or Alaskan Native
- East Asian American
- South Asian American
- Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander
- Middle Eastern or Arab American

Other:

I prefer not to answer this question.

Do you identify as a first-generation college graduate?

Have you ever served on active duty in the US Armed Forces, Reserves, or National Guard?

Do you have a disability, including but not limited to a sensory, mobility, developmental, psychological, or other impairment?

# Awards, Publications, and Scholarly Engagement

## Awards

Beginning with the most recent, list up to six of the university and external forms of support received during graduate study to date: fellowships, teaching or research assistantships, travel/project grants, awards, and summer support. In each case, give the dates, purposes (tuition, travel, expenses, etc.), and, where appropriate, the approximate amounts. If you are listing only select awards, choose those that are most significant.

Denote support that is part of your department's standard funding package clearly and indicate the number of years covered.


*Do not be concerned if you do not use all six entries.* There is no minimum number of awards/entries that would make an applicant competitive.

Please remember:

- use only numbers in the date fields, for example, 09/2018
- use the format mm/yyyy throughout
- where an entry continues into the present, leave the "To" field blank
- use only numbers in all dollar amount fields, for example, 1000

Award

Award Type

From

 / 

To

 / 

Amount

Purpose

Award

Award Type

Select One ▼

From

 / 

To

 / 

Amount

Purpose

Award

Award Type

Select One ▼

From

 / 

To

 / 

Amount

Purpose

Award

Award Type

Select One ▼

From

 / 

To

 / 

Amount

Purpose

Award

Award Type

Select One ▼

From

 / 

To

 / 

Amount

Purpose

Award

Award Type

Select One ▼

From


 / 

To

 / 

Amount

Purpose

 Scholarly Engagement

Have you ever participated, beyond attending, in a scholarly meeting?

Select ▼

If yes, in what capacity?

(Please indicate number of times: 0, 1, 2, etc.)

Delivered a paper

Select ▼

Organized a panel

Select ▼

Participated in roundtable discussion

Select ▼

Participated in poster session

Select ▼

 Publications

Please list any publications (peer reviewed, non-refereed, publicly-engaged writing, etc.), grouped by category, and include publication date (or forthcoming or under review), name of publisher, number of pages, type (article, review, etc.) in the space below. You may list up to six items here, though there is no minimum number that would make an application competitive.

(1500 max character limit: *character count = 0*)

Save    Save and Continue

# Dissertation Project Description

## Dissertation Project Description

Mellon/ACLS Dissertation Innovation Fellowships support scholars preparing to embark on innovative dissertation research projects. You should use the boxes below to describe the research you propose to undertake, even if your dissertation plans are provisional at this point. The program welcomes scholars who will use the fellowship to prepare for innovative dissertation projects by exploring new disciplines and methodologies, by expanding their scholarly repertoire through publicly/community engaged work, collaborative research, etc., and/or by pursuing new forms and formats of the dissertation.

Please note that if you paste your responses into the boxes below, it is critical that you confirm that the character count does not exceed the limit. Examine your print application to be sure your responses are complete.

Do not use hard returns.

Project Title (title of research project - this may be a provisional dissertation title or concise phrase describing the research project)

(250 max character limit: *character count = 0*)

Project Abstract (brief description of the project and the innovative research and dissertation project directions you will pursue)

(800 max character limit: *character count = 0*)

If there is a web page associated with your project, please provide the URL here:

(Optional)



### Broader Significance/Stakes of the Project

Your proposal will be reviewed by scholars within your specific discipline and by others from across the humanities and interpretive social sciences. Use this space to make a concise case for the significance of the project for the humanities and interpretive social sciences in a way that will be legible to scholars outside your field. You should refrain from employing technical language specific to your discipline that may make this significance unclear to non-specialists. Ideally, reviewers will gain a clearer understanding of the stakes of your research project after reading this statement.

(2000 max character limit: *character count = 0*)

### Proposal Location

If you are planning to conduct your proposed research project in a particular location, please specify where and when you plan to do so. Please be brief and give your response in this format: semester/location. Longer explanations of research plans should be included in your proposal document.

(150 max character limit: *character count = 0*)

### Modes of Innovation

Please identify up to three areas, in order of relevance, that best describe the innovative aspects of your dissertation project. Do not choose "other" unless none of the options describes your work.

1.

Select One ▼

Other

2.

Other

3.

Other

 Countries or Geographical Areas

List any countries or geographical areas on which your research is focused.

1.

2.

3.

4.

Other

 Countries or Geographical Areas - Research Completed

List any countries or geographical areas other than the US in which you have done research in the last five years.

1.

2.

3.

Other

 Disciplinary Areas

Please identify up to five disciplinary areas, in order of relevance, that best describe your research project. Do not choose "other" unless none of the options is close to your field. For your first selection please choose the specific field that most closely corresponds to your research project.

1.

Other

2.

Other

3.

Other

4.

Select One



Other

5.

Select One



Other

Save

Save and Continue

# Administrative Information

Applicants are required to fill out the sections below. Please note that your answers to questions on this page are collected for statistical purposes only and will not be distributed as part of the review or selection process.

## Administrative Information

*Please remember:*

- use only numbers in the date fields, for example, 09/2018
- use the format mm/yyyy throughout, except where mm/dd/yyyy is specifically requested
- where an entry continues into the present, leave the "To" field blank

What is your country of citizenship?

Select One 

If Other, enter country

If NOT United States, do you hold US Permanent Resident, refugee, asylee, DACA, or Temporary Protected Status in the United States, or are you residing in the United States through rights associated with the Jay Treaty of 1794?

Select 

Beginning date for the Mellon/ACLS Fellowship (fellowship terms may commence between July 1, and September 1, 2024)

/  /

(mm/dd/yyyy)

## ORCID

ORCID iD

ACLS requires all applicants to provide an ORCID iD as part of their application. [Learn more \(https://www.acls.org/FAQ/ACLS-Fellowships\)](https://www.acls.org/FAQ/ACLS-Fellowships).

The record search feature works for public ORCID records only.  
(click here to search ORCID)

 Sources of Support - Applying

List other major funding sources, with approximate amount and tenure period, to which you ARE APPLYING for your doctoral studies.

Source

From

 / 

To

 / 

Amount

Source

From

 / 

To

 / 

Amount

Source

From

 / 

To

/ 

Amount


0.00

 Statistical Purposes Only

Date of birth

 /  / 

(mm/dd/yyyy)

 Informational Purposes Only

1. How did you learn about ACLS fellowship programs? (Please select all that apply.)

- Higher Education publication (e.g., Chronicle of Higher Education, Inside Higher Ed)
- Department newsletter or bulletin board
- Dean or other administrator
- Office of Sponsored Research/Grants and Fellowships
- ACLS website
- Other website

Please specify:

- Former fellows
- Social media

Please specify:

- Other/informal communication

Please specify:

2. Please identify the ACLS member scholarly societies or ACLS affiliate organizations (if any) of which you are a member or with which you have an affiliation. (Please check all that apply.)

ACLS Constituent Learned Societies

- African Studies Association
- American Academy of Arts and Sciences
- American Academy of Religion
- American Anthropological Association
- American Antiquarian Society
- American Association for Italian Studies
- American Association for the History of Medicine
- American Association of Geographers
- American Comparative Literature Association
- American Dialect Society
- American Economic Association
- American Folklore Society
- American Historical Association
- American Musicological Society
- American Numismatic Society
- American Oriental Society
- American Philosophical Association
- American Philosophical Society
- American Political Science Association
- American Society for Aesthetics
- American Society for Eighteenth-Century Studies
- American Society for Environmental History
- American Society for Legal History
- American Society for Theatre Research
- American Society of Church History
- American Society of Comparative Law
- American Society of International Law
- American Society of Overseas Research
- American Sociological Association
- American Studies Association
- Archaeological Institute of America
- Association for Asian Studies
- Association for Jewish Studies
- Association for Slavic, East European, and Eurasian Studies
- Association for Study of African American Life and History
- Association for the Advancement of Baltic Studies
- Association of American Law Schools
- Austrian Studies Association
- Bibliographical Society of America
- College Art Association
- College Forum of the National Council of Teachers of English
- Dictionary Society of North America
- Economic History Association
- German Studies Association
- Hispanic Society of America



- History of Science Society
- International Center of Medieval Art
- Latin American Studies Association
- Law and Society Association
- Linguistic Society of America
- Medieval Academy of America
- Metaphysical Society of America
- Middle East Studies Association of North America
- Modern Language Association of America
- National Communication Association
- National Council on Public History
- National Women's Studies Association
- North American Conference on British Studies
- Oral History Association
- Organization of American Historians
- Philosophy of Science Association
- Renaissance Society of America
- Rhetoric Society of America
- Shakespeare Association of America
- Sixteenth Century Society and Conference
- Society for American Music
- Society for Cinema and Media Studies
- Society for Classical Studies
- Society for Ethnomusicology
- Society for French Historical Studies
- Society for Military History
- Society for Music Theory
- Society for the Advancement of Scandinavian Study
- Society for the History of Authorship, Reading and Publishing
- Society for the History of Technology
- Society of Architectural Historians
- Society of Biblical Literature
- Society of Dance History Scholars
- World History Association

## ACLS Affiliates

- Association for Research on Nonprofit Organizations and Voluntary Action (ARNOVA)
- Association of American Colleges and Universities
- Association of Art Museum Curators
- Association of College & Research Libraries
- Association of Research Libraries
- Canadian Federation for the Humanities and Social Sciences
- Center for Research Libraries
- Community College Humanities Association

- Consortium of Humanities Centers and Institutes
- Federation of State Humanities Councils
- International Society for Third-Sector Research
- Phi Beta Kappa

Save

Save and Continue

# Reference Letter and Institutional Statement

## Reference Letter and Institutional Statement

PLEASE NOTE: You MUST ENTER YOUR REFEREES on the Reference Letters page BEFORE they can log in to use the online references system. Please do not ask them to access the system until you have done this. Once you have entered the information and clicked the "send email" button, an email will be automatically generated with appropriate instructions to the referee.

One letter of reference and one institutional statement are required.

1. REFERENCE LETTER. We ask that you secure as a referee either your provisional dissertation advisor or a faculty member within your department or program who would be eligible to serve as your advisor. The referee should be able to judge your record, the present research proposal, the innovative dimensions of this work, and the probable future contribution to the field. Please note that ACLS does not accept reference letters from dossier services, such as Interfolio or university-based services.

2. INSTITUTIONAL STATEMENT. In addition to the letter of reference, we require a statement from the applicant's department chair, director of graduate studies, or dean.

The statement is not a reference letter but a form that asks the institutional representative to 1) attest to the compatibility of the Mellon/ACLS award within the structure of your funding package at your university, and that the award will extend rather than replace that funding; 2) stipulate that, in the event of an award, the university will allow you to remain enrolled while waiving tuition and fees; and 3) attest that the university supports innovative directions in dissertation research, writing, and dissemination.

The person submitting the institutional form should not be the same as your reference letter writer.

The letter of reference and the institutional statement must be submitted online. It is your responsibility to convey information about your proposal to your writers. After your letter/statement writers have agreed to write on your behalf:

- Tell them to expect an email from ACLS.
- Make absolutely certain you have the correct email address for each writer.
- Enter each writer's name and email address by clicking on the "Add Referee" link at the bottom of this page. Please capitalize the name properly.
- Once you have entered the information and clicked the "send email" button, an email will be automatically generated with appropriate instructions to the referee.
- It is not necessary to enter both contacts at the same time. You can return to this screen at any time.

No more than one letter of reference and one institutional statement will be accepted.

- Enter only the required number of writers. It is possible to enter additional referees, but you should do this only if you learn that a referee is unable to complete the promised letter.
- The first reference letter and the first institutional statement submitted will be the letters on file in support of your application. Once the maximum number has been submitted, another referee attempting to submit a letter for you will be prevented from doing so. Be careful not to put

anyone in this situation.

If you learn that your referee did not receive an email with instructions, enter the information again using the "Add Referee" link below to have the email sent again. (While the email will be resent, you will not see anything here to indicate it. Also, you will not be able to enter the information again if the referee has begun your letter already.)

The letter of reference and the institutional statement are due by the application deadline, October 25, 2023. It is your responsibility to check online to see whether letters have been submitted. The system will continue to accept letters for a few days after the deadline and will add them to your application at the earliest possible time, though we cannot guarantee that they will accompany your application through our entire review process.

You may wish to print this page so that you have this information after the application deadline. This page will not be included as part of your view/print application.

No recommenders entered. Click the "Add Recommender" button to request a letter.

[Add Recommender](#)   [Continue](#)

# Proposal Upload

## Proposal Upload

To complete your application package, in addition to the application form, you must upload the following items: 1) a proposal, personal statement, timeline, and project bibliography and 2) work sample. Your proposal, personal statement, timeline, and project bibliography should be uploaded as one continuous document; the work sample should be uploaded as a separate document. (You will upload a total of two documents.) All documents should have one-inch margins on all sides.

### 1A) PROPOSAL:

In preparing this material, please keep in mind that our review process consists of two stages. At the first stage, applicants' work is reviewed by specialists in their disciplines, while at the second, it is reviewed by a multi-disciplinary committee of scholars in the humanities and social sciences who bring a variety of perspectives and expertise in doctoral research innovation.

Content: The applicant should describe the aims of their research and clearly explain how they will advance those aims during the fellowship period. The proposal should also include a description of the training, workshops, travel, or anything else the applicant feels will be necessary to advance the project during the fellowship term. If the applicant has already identified an external mentor, please note the mentor in the proposal and describe how that individual was selected. If the mentor is yet to be determined, please provide a brief description of what qualities and capacities you will seek within a mentor. What kinds of perspectives would this mentor bring to your project? *The most effective proposal will clearly describe the applicant's innovative approach to their dissertation project and make a compelling argument for why the timing of the fellowship would be ideal for their proposed research and training and within the context of the full timeline of their doctoral studies.* Applicants should also detail how they will measure their own success in the fellowship year.

The proposal must not exceed 7 double-spaced pages in Arial or Helvetica 11-point font, inclusive of any citations (footnotes or endnotes). You may, however, include up to two additional pages of images, musical scores, or other similar supporting non-text materials.

### 1B) SHORT PERSONAL STATEMENT:

Please provide a short personal statement (no more than two pages, double spaced, in Arial or Helvetica 11-point font) describing your journey as a scholar and how your work comes together at the nexus of personal experience, research interests, and desire to shift the forms and formats of academic research.

The personal statement must not exceed 2 pages, double spaced, in Arial or Helvetica 11-point font.

### 1C) TIMELINE:

Please provide a one-page timeline of fellowship year activity with provisional sketch of post-fellowship

trajectory, outlining the time leading up to the completion of the dissertation. You must use the sample timeline (<https://www.acls.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/06/Project-timeline-template-Dissertation-Innovation-Fellowship-2023-24-competition.docx>) provided by ACLS.

The timeline must not exceed 1 single-spaced page, in Arial or Helvetica 11-point font.

#### 1D) BIBLIOGRAPHY:

The bibliography should provide an overview of essential references for your project, and should balance the various sorts of key materials being used.

The bibliography must not exceed 2 single-spaced pages, in Arial or Helvetica 11-point font.

#### 2) WORK SAMPLE:

Please provide a brief work sample (no more than fifteen pages total, double spaced, including any images and footnotes or endnotes, in Arial or Helvetica 11-point font), including a brief description of context and the sample's relation to the proposed project. The sample must be in English, though quotations may be in other languages (with translations provided). Your sample may include footnote or endnote citations, but they must be contained within the 15 double-spaced page limit. Brief, in-text citations are acceptable if the work cited appears in the project bibliography.

Documents must adhere to the page limits and formatting requirements to be reviewed.

#### DOCUMENT SPECIFICATIONS:

- Items 1a, 1b,1c, and 1d must be uploaded as one continuous document.
- Item 2 should be uploaded as a separate, second document.
- Margins must be at least one inch on all sides.
- Use Arial or Helvetica 11-point font for all uploaded documents.
- There is a 3 MB limit on the size of your upload. This means that the combined size of the two files uploaded, including any graphics or other supporting materials, cannot exceed 3 MB.
- Your application will be converted to Portable Document Format (.pdf). Keep formatting simple to avoid problems in the converted document.
- All documents must be in English, though citations may be in other languages (with translations provided).
- If your proposal includes non-Romance languages, please view it after uploading to be sure these characters convert properly. If not, you may have to first convert your document to .pdf and then upload again to resolve formatting problems.
- Use the header/footer function to number pages. (Do not type the numbers directly into each page of your document text.) You may number pages consecutively throughout the entire document, or you may number the different sections separately. (Page numbers are most helpful on the proposal, so you may omit them on the other items if you wish.)
- If you have difficulty with your uploads, consult the FAQ/technical support (/programs/faq/default.aspx#tech) before contacting OFA HELP.

#### INSTRUCTIONS FOR UPLOADING YOUR DOCUMENTS:

The proposal elements should be collated in this order—proposal, personal statement, timeline, and project bibliography—and uploaded as one file. The work sample should be uploaded as a separate, second document.

Files will be accepted in the following formats ONLY:

Microsoft Word (.doc or .docx), Text only (.txt), or Adobe Portable Document Format (.pdf). Your file MUST include the appropriate extension (e.g., ".doc"); if you are on a Mac, you will need to enter the extension as part of the file name.

The "SELECT" button below will allow you to browse your computer system to select the file that you wish to upload. There will be a brief pause after you select the file for the system to process the file for uploading. After that is complete, you must click "UPLOAD FILE" to begin the document conversion. When the upload is complete, your file name should appear under "FILE UPLOADED" below as a link. You can confirm that the file has uploaded successfully by clicking on that link and viewing your file. Sometimes the process takes a little time: if your file name does not appear as a link, you can refresh the screen using the link that appears below, or simply leave this screen and come back to it.

As long as your application is still "In Process," you can upload revised versions of your document by simply repeating the upload process and selecting the new/revised version. (This may have the same file name or a new file name.) When you click on "Upload File" the revised version will be recorded and the old version erased.

After uploading, please check your file to be sure it has uploaded successfully.

Proposal, Personal Statement, Timeline, and Bibliography:

Select

NOT UPLOADED

Work Sample:

Select

NOT UPLOADED

[Upload Files](#)   [Continue](#)

# Help

## Contact Information

Email Address

Phone Number

System you are Using

Select One



Browser you are Using

Select One



Please describe the problem that you are having

Submit