



## Work Plan Suggestions for Dissertation Fellowships

The Robert H. N. Ho Family Foundation Dissertation Fellowships in Buddhist Studies provide stipends to PhD candidates for full-time preparation of dissertations. Successful applicants may use the ten-month fellowship period for fieldwork, archival research, and analysis of findings, or for writing after research is complete. As such, the following examples are divided between fieldwork and writing-oriented fellowships. **These examples are only suggestions; applicants should structure their work plan according to their own goals and projects.** Since the work plan is part of the five-page proposal, not a separate document, it should be brief and proportionate to the rest of the proposal.

### RESEARCH AND FIELDWORK:

#### *Suggestion 1) Chronological*

- State your proposed fellowship period.
  - e.g. September 30, 2026 – July 30, 2027
- Describe any work you have already completed relevant to the project goals.
  - e.g., completed literature reviews or data analysis
- Note any scholars, institutions, archives, etc., that you plan to visit during the fellowship period.
  - It is very important to explain how these people and/or institutions contribute to the success of your project in terms of both content and method.
- Detail the proposed analysis of the data you will collect.
  - Note the feasibility of the analysis based on your past experience.
- Conclude by listing what outcomes you expect at the end of the fellowship.
  - Briefly mention possible future directions, both up to and beyond graduation.

#### *Suggestion 2) Goals*

- State your proposed fellowship period.
  - e.g. September 30, 2026 – July 30, 2027
- Broadly list the goals you have for that period.
  - Detail how each goal will be accomplished, connecting these details to relevant scholars, institutions, archives, etc., you plan to visit.
  - Note how each of these goals connects to your methodology.
- Conclude by listing what outcome you expect at the end of the fellowship.
  - Briefly mention possible future directions, both up to and beyond graduation.

#### *Suggestion 3) Methodological Elaboration*

- State your proposed fellowship period.
  - e.g. September 30, 2026 – July 30, 2027
- Describe your current position and any fieldwork or methodological progress you have completed.
  - Structure the work plan around each method.
  - Note the time frame for the method, how you will apply the method, and the expected data and outcome for the method.
- Finish by listing what outcome you expect at the end of the fellowship.
  - Briefly mention possible future directions, both up to and beyond graduation.



## WRITING:

### *Suggestion 1) Monthly Breakdown*

- State your proposed fellowship period.
  - e.g. September 30, 2026 – July 30, 2027
- Describe your current position and any fieldwork or preparatory research you have completed.
  - Indicate your next scholarly milestone, e.g., candidacy, defense, etc.
  - Provide a monthly breakdown for accomplishing that milestone.
    - For example, you may prioritize organizing notes in October, reading for and writing the literature review in November, and so on.
- Conclude with a statement on how the fellowship will help you accomplish these tasks and reach your milestone.

### *Suggestion 2) General Timeline*

- State your proposed fellowship period.
  - e.g. September 30, 2026 – July 30, 2027
- Write an overview of your dissertation argument and an outline of the chapters.
  - Note which chapters you have completed, which chapters are in progress, and which chapters you have not started.
- Create a timeline with your writing goals during the proposed fellowship period.
  - Include any anticipated revisions or supervisor comments.
  - Include relevant events, such as workshops or conferences, that may serve as external deadlines for specific chapters.
- Conclude with a statement on how the fellowship will help you accomplish these goals and complete your dissertation.