

The Robert H. N. Ho Family Foundation

Program Description

The Robert H. N. Ho Family Foundation Dissertation Fellowships in Buddhist Studies provide stipends to PhD students for full-time preparation of dissertations, at either the research or writing stage. The ten-month fellowship period may be used for fieldwork, archival research, analysis of findings, or writing after research is complete.

For more information, please visit our website at <https://www.acls.org/competitions/the-robert-h-n-ho-family-foundation-dissertation-fellowships-in-buddhist-studies/> (<https://www.acls.org/competitions/the-robert-h-n-ho-family-foundation-dissertation-fellowships-in-buddhist-studies/>).

Continue

Eligibility

Eligibility Check

1. Are you a PhD student at an institution of higher education (college or university) anywhere in the world pursuing a dissertation focused on Buddhist history, literature, culture, or communities of practice?

☐ Yes ☐ No

2. Will you have completed all graduate-level classes, coursework requirements, and comprehensive exams and be ready to undertake full-time research and writing for a PhD dissertation by April 15, 2027?

☐ Yes ☐ No

[Continue](#)

Instructions

Instructions

Please read through the full form, including the Proposal Upload section. Your application must be complete and in **SUBMITTED** status by **5:00 PM Eastern Time on October 28, 2026**.

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.
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.
3. Do not use ALL CAPS and check your spelling, punctuation, and grammar.
4. Follow text box limits. Excess text may appear on the screen but will not be visible to reviewers.
5. 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]).
6. In all dollar amount fields, use only digits. Please do not use the dollar sign or commas.
7. **Do not use non-Roman characters in the application form as the system cannot process certain characters.** Our reviewers understand the technical limitations of the system. Within the Proposal Upload, you may use non-Roman characters, but please view your PDF after uploading to be sure these characters convert properly.
8. You may work on your application in multiple sessions. To complete your application, you must go to the SUBMIT APPLICATION screen and select **SUBMIT APPLICATION**. Only applications with a SUBMITTED status by 5:00 PM Eastern Time on October 28, 2026 will be reviewed.
9. If you have questions about the application process, please consult the FAQ. If your question is not answered there, please email buddhiststudies@acsls.org.

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

Ms.

First/Given Name

Sample

Middle Name/Initial

Last/Family Name

Application

Suffix

Legal First Name

Sample

Legal Middle Name/Initial

Legal Last Name

Application

(This is the name that you would use on a tax form or with governmental bodies)

Preferred Pronouns

Primary Email Address

buddhiststudies@acl.org

(should be valid through September 2027)

By applying to an ACLS fellowship or grant program, you agree to receive future email communications from ACLS. You may update your preferences or opt out at any time.

Mailing Information

Address

City

US State, if applicable

Select One

Zip/Postal Code

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

Country

Telephone

() - , ext.

(If not United States)

Which is this address?

Home

Education

Education

What is your highest level of education? (If you are a current PhD student or candidate, you must select Pursuing PhD to complete the information for your PhD program.)

☒ PhD

☐ Pursuing PhD

☐ Master's

☐ BA/BS

PhD

Degree received from

NYU

(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.**)

Country of PhD institution

United States

PhD department

Awesomeness

PhD major discipline

Awesomeness

Date conferred by university ⓘ

01

/

01

/

2024

(mm/dd/yyyy)

Dissertation title

Awesome Mcawesome

(150 max character limit: *character count* = 17)

Name of dissertation supervisor

Professor

 Master's Degree

Degree received from

(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.**)

Select a degree

Select One

Date degree received

/

(mm/yyyy)

Master's degree major discipline

 BA/BS

Degree received from

(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 received

/

(mm/yyyy)

BA/BS major discipline

 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
	* ▼	* ▼	* ▼	☐	☐
	* ▼	* ▼	* ▼	☐	☐
	* ▼	* ▼	* ▼	☐	☐
	* ▼	* ▼	* ▼	☐	☐
	* ▼	* ▼	* ▼	☐	☐

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 are a current graduate student, professional background is not required.)

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

Centro de Enseñanza Técnica y Superior, Mexico

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.**

Country of Institution**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

 /

Dissertation Project

 PhD

Start date of PhD program
(use start date of MA if earned en route to the PhD)

/

(mm/yyyy)

Name of Dissertation Advisor
(if you have co-advisors, please list both individuals)

 Dissertation Project

Enter your responses into the text boxes below and ensure your character count does not exceed the limit. If you paste your response, excess text may appear on the screen but will not print and will not be visible to reviewers. Do not use hard returns. Examine your print application to be sure your responses are complete.

Dissertation Title

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

Dissertation Abstract

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

Proposed dates of fellowship period:

The fellowship must begin between August 1, 2027 and September 30, 2027.

From: / /

(mm/dd/yyyy)

To: / /

(mm/dd/yyyy)

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

(Optional)

For the purpose of this competition, the field of **Buddhist Studies** is defined broadly to include, but is not limited to, disciplines such as history, philology, philosophy, anthropology, and religious studies. Projects may engage any Buddhist traditions and/or contemporary developments.

For the benefit of the international panel of scholars who will review your application, please state how your project is significant for the broad range of scholarship on Buddhism and any of its specific fields.

Significance of your project

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

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.

Proposal Location

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

Countries or Geographical Areas – Research Focus

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

1.

Select One



2.

Select One



3.

Select One



4.

Select One



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.

Select One



2.

Select One



3.

Select One



Other **Disciplinary Areas**

Please identify up to three disciplinary areas, in order of relevance, that best describe the research on which your project is based. For your first selection, please choose the specific field that most closely corresponds to your research. **Note that 'Buddhist Studies' is not listed as an option because it is a shared disciplinary focus of this program. Please instead select the specific fields that most closely reflect your project in broader disciplinary conversations.** Do not choose "other" unless none of the options are close to your field.

1.

Select One

**Other****2.**

Select One

**Other****3.**

Select One

**Other** **Artificial Intelligence**

You may use AI tools such as Claude or ChatGPT to write your application. However, you are responsible for any errors, omissions, hallucinations, or acts of plagiarism in your application. It is the responsibility of the named applicant to ensure that all content in their proposal is factual and that they have properly acknowledged and referenced all sources. We encourage you to indicate in your application where and how you used AI assistance for full transparency.

☐ I acknowledge and understand the above statement.

Awards

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.

Clearly indicate support that is part of your department's standard funding package and the number of years covered in the 'Purpose' text box.

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, 09/1995
- 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
- please convert all monetary amounts into United States Dollars

Award

Award Type

Select One 

From

 /

To

 /

Amount

Purpose

Administrative Information

Administrative Information

This information is REQUIRED (except as noted). It is for administrative purposes only and will not be shown to reviewers.

Please remember:

- use only numbers in the date fields, for example, 09/1995
- 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 (DO NOT USE dollar signs or commas)
- please convert all monetary amounts into United States Dollars

What is your country of citizenship?

Select One



ORCID iD (Optional)

ORCID iD

ACLS encourages all applicants to provide an ORCID iD as part of their application. Learn more (<https://www.acls.org/FAQ/ACLS-Fellowships>).

Sources of Support - Applying

List any other major funding sources, with approximate amounts and fellowship periods, to which you **ARE APPLYING** for dissertation research or writing support. Please convert all monetary amounts into United States Dollars.

Source

From

/

To

/

Amount

0.00

Source

From

/

To

/

Amount

0.00

Source

From

/

To

/

Amount

0.00

 Statistical Purposes Only

The following questions are optional and will not be shown to reviewers or used in any fellowship decisions.

Date of birth

/ /

(mm/dd/yyyy)

Gender**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.

 Informational Purposes Only**1. How did you learn about this program? (Please select all that apply.)**

- ☐ Higher Education publication (e.g., Chronicle of Higher Education, Inside Higher Ed)
- ☐ Dean or other administrator
- ☐ University fellowship/grants office
- ☐ ACLS website
- ☐ Other website (e.g. H-Net)

Please specify:

- ☐ Former fellows/grantees
- ☐ Colleague at my institution
- ☐ Colleague at another institution
- ☐ Social media

Please specify:

- ☐ Online Advertisement

Please specify where:

- ☐ IBIS Email Announcement
- ☐ Email from ACLS
- ☐ Other Email newsletter or Listserv
- Please specify where:

- ☐ Web Search
- ☐ Academic Conference or Meeting
- Please specify:

- ☐ Other/informal communication
- Other:

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 Literature Association
- ☐ 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 Dialect Society
- ☐ American Economic Association
- ☐ American Folklore Society
- ☐ American Historical Association
- ☐ American Musicological Society
- ☐ American Numismatic 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 American Studies
- ☐ Association for Asian Studies
- ☐ Association for Jewish Studies
- ☐ Association for Slavic, East European, and Eurasian Studies
- ☐ Association for the Advancement of Baltic Studies
- ☐ Association for the Study of African American Life and History
- ☐ Association for the Study of the Worldwide African Diaspora
- ☐ Association of American Law Schools
- ☐ Austrian Studies Association
- ☐ Bibliographical Society of America
- ☐ College Art Association
- ☐ Dance Studies Association
- ☐ Dictionary Society of North America
- ☐ Economic History Association
- ☐ German Studies Association
- ☐ 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
- ☐ Modern Language Association
- ☐ National Communication Association
- ☐ National Council of Teachers of English
- ☐ National Council on Public History
- ☐ National Women's Studies Association
- ☐ North American Conference on British Studies
- ☐ North American Victorian Studies Association
- ☐ 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
- ☐ 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 Social Studies of Science (4S)
- ☐ 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
- ☐ World History Association

ACLS Affiliates

- ☐ Association of American Colleges and Universities
- ☐ Association of Research Libraries
- ☐ Association of University Presses
- ☐ 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

3. 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▼

Save

Save and Continue

Institutional Statement

Institutional Statement

ACLS will ask your institutional representative (e.g., department chair, director of graduate studies, dean) to confirm the following through an online form. **This is not a reference letter.**

- You have or are on schedule to have completed all graduate-level classes, coursework requirements, and comprehensive exams and are or will be ready to undertake full-time research and writing for a PhD dissertation by April 15, 2027.
- Your university will waive your fees while allowing access to university facilities during the fellowship period.
- If university policy or regulations prevent the university from following this procedure, the university is willing to negotiate with ACLS an alternative, mutually acceptable formula.

It is your responsibility to convey information about your proposal and this process to your institutional representative. After your institutional representative agrees to write on your behalf:

- Tell your institutional representative to expect an email from ACLS.
- Enter the institutional representative's name and professional email address by clicking on the "Add Recommender" button at the bottom of this page. *You must enter your institutional representative on the Institutional Statement page BEFORE they can log in to use the online form.*
- Once you have entered the information and clicked the "send email" button, an email will be automatically sent with appropriate instructions to the institutional representative.
- You can return to this screen at any time to enter an institutional representative.

No more than one institutional statement will be accepted.

- Enter only one institutional representative. It is possible to enter additional institutional representatives, but you should do this only if you learn that an institutional representative is unable to complete the promised statement.
- **The first institutional statement submitted will be the statement on file in support of your application.** Once one statement has been submitted, another institutional representative attempting to submit a statement for you will be prevented from doing so.

If you learn that your institutional representative did not receive an email with instructions, enter the information again using the "Add Recommender" button to have the email sent again. If the institutional representative has begun your statement, you will not be able to enter the information again.

The institutional statement is due by November 4, 2026. It is your responsibility to check online to see whether a statement has been submitted. The system will continue to accept statements 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 if submitted after the deadline.

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

Add Recommender

Continue

Proposal Upload

Proposal Upload

Proposal Upload

In addition to the application form, you must upload the following items. For more information, please visit our website at <https://www.acls.org/competitions/the-robert-h-n-ho-family-foundation-dissertation-fellowships-in-buddhist-studies/> (<https://www.acls.org/competitions/the-robert-h-n-ho-family-foundation-dissertation-fellowships-in-buddhist-studies/>).

- 1) **Proposal** (no more than five pages, double-spaced, including any footnotes or endnotes)
- 2) **Work Plan** (no more than one page, single-spaced). Applicants must use the work plan template (<https://www.acls.org/wp-content/uploads/2026/08/BST-Diss-Work-Plan-Template.docx>) provided by ACLS.
- 3) **Bibliography** (no more than two pages, single-spaced with hanging indents)
- 4) **Personal Statement** (no more than two pages, double-spaced)

INSTRUCTIONS

- Margins must be at least one inch on all sides.
- Use Arial or Helvetica 11-point font.
- There is a 10 MB limit on the size of your upload.
- You may only upload these file types: 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.
- Your application will be converted to Portable Document Format (.pdf). Keep formatting simple to avoid problems in the converted document.
- If your proposal includes non-Roman characters, 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.
- If you have difficulty with your uploads, consult the [FAQ/technical support](https://ofa.acls.org/programs/faq/?sid=QVBhmqVgMLspnAjbvw4rBQtOAq-pwwaKpfVDhDPs5a4Jcet35Spr2dHf_baiTswSkLZwjVrqNNs84SzM6JlhpCUN1yVLuZVEuCmQgGC-DoO_zcFPk6Wn0AWF0XeWITg6e_-m3nTwQpoaUWEvl9IYvVjW1QIlmC3IXIOcXV8_K8rqzg12Oe_TGajKer1BnARo_naEkQSI37vaURheGvpMkRwP) (https://ofa.acls.org/programs/faq/?sid=QVBhmqVgMLspnAjbvw4rBQtOAq-pwwaKpfVDhDPs5a4Jcet35Spr2dHf_baiTswSkLZwjVrqNNs84SzM6JlhpCUN1yVLuZVEuCmQgGC-DoO_zcFPk6Wn0AWF0XeWITg6e_-m3nTwQpoaUWEvl9IYvVjW1QIlmC3IXIOcXV8_K8rqzg12Oe_TGajKer1BnARo_naEkQSI37vaURheGvpMkRwP) before contacting us.

Proposal:**Drag & drop your file here, or click to browse**

PDF, Word (.doc / .docx), or .txt

Work Plan:**Drag & drop your file here, or click to browse**

PDF, Word (.doc / .docx), or .txt

Bibliography:**Drag & drop your file here, or click to browse**

PDF, Word (.doc / .docx), or .txt

Personal Statement:**Drag & drop your file here, or click to browse**

PDF, Word (.doc / .docx), or .txt

[Continue](#)