

UC Dissertation-Year Fellowship, 2017 – 2018

UC Berkeley is committed to recognizing and rewarding student's contributions to diversifying the academy during their graduate careers and beyond. The purpose of this fellowship award is to provide funding to diverse doctoral students that allow them to prioritize and focus on completing the dissertation. Fellows will receive a \$20,500 stipend, payment of in-state fees, travel allowance and \$3,000 bonus for early dissertation filing. The deadline for all materials to be submitted is Monday, March 6, 2017. Award notifications will be made in April.

NOTE: UC Dissertation-Year fellowships are for doctoral students in academic programs only. Professional programs are not eligible. Preference will be given to nominees who have not received other major fellowships.

To be eligible:

- Student must have U.S. citizenship or permanent residency. Student may be undocumented, but AB540-eligible.
- Student must have advanced to doctoral candidacy and completed two dissertation chapters or the equivalent, as confirmed by dissertation chair.
- Student must be making adequate progress towards degree, as certified by their dissertation chair.
- Student must be in an academic program. Professional programs are not eligible.

Selection will be based on one or more of the following criteria:

- First in the family to attend college
- Membership in a historically underrepresented group in higher education
- Overcame economic, social and/or educational barriers
- Low income, worked 20 hours or more while achieving academic success
- Academic promise and potential
- Evidence of capacity to file one's dissertation by the end of spring 2018
- Preference will be given to nominees who have not received other major fellowships

Additional criteria to be considered:

- Research advances the understanding of current societal issues related to race, gender, ethnicity and culture
- Demonstrated commitment (volunteer work, research, teaching and service) to increasing access, equity and inclusion for those who are underrepresented in their field
- Evidence of an intention to use the doctoral degree toward serving marginalized and underrepresented populations

Requirements of UC Dissertation Fellows:

- Present two seminars on her/his dissertation research, one on the Berkeley campus and one at another university in California

- Attend University events, as selected by the Office of the President and Office of Graduate Diversity, such as the Fall Diversity Reception, UC Dissertation Orientation Meetings and others (TBD)
- Fellows may work during one semester only, in a GSI, AI-GS, GSR, Reader, or Tutor appointment of 25% time or less.
- Forego any University funding after spring 2018 (which includes block grants, summer funding and GSI/GSR positions, but not loans)

Faculty Adviser Responsibilities:

- Provide direct support in overcoming academic obstacles
- Assist in ensuring dissertation completion by the end of the year
- Assess and suggest valuable opportunities to present research
- Assist in preparing for postdoctoral/teaching positions (interviewing, writing letters of reference)

The application is a TWO-STEP process which includes a NOMINATION by the student's DEPARTMENT:

- 1) Inquire with your department regarding its internal competition for attaining a nomination.
- 2) If you are selected by your department as a nominee, submit an application through Tango (<http://tango.berkeley.edu>) by March 6, 2017.

Application must include:

From Student Nominee (to be submitted through Tango: <http://tango.berkeley.edu>)

- Personal Statement which addresses how the nominee's background, including financial need, fits within the criteria
- One page summary of the dissertation written in non-technical language
- Detailed outline of the dissertation (not to exceed four pages)
- Unofficial graduate transcript(s)

From Department (to be submitted via e-mail to Graduate Division)

- A letter from the Department Chair supporting the nomination and confirming the nominee's eligibility. The letter should address how the nominee meets the selection criteria. This letter must also be signed by the department's Equity Adviser.
- A letter from the nominee's adviser describing the dissertation project and its importance, and attesting that they have read the reviewed one or more chapters of the student's dissertation

For more information, contact Michael Sacramento by phone at (510) 642-7739 or by email at msacram@berkeley.edu.