Graduate Fellowship Awards Application Guidelines

Applications are invited from current U of I graduate students for selection as IPRH Graduate Student Fellows for the 2019–20 academic year.

The fellowship will enable advanced graduate students to develop their dissertations or research projects and to participate in the year’s activities, including the yearlong interdisciplinary Fellows Seminar and related programming. Graduate Student Fellows receive a $10,000 stipend and a tuition and partial fee waiver.

IPRH welcomes applications from scholars in all disciplines and departments with an interest in humanities and humanities-inflected research. IPRH is especially interested in fostering interdisciplinary work, both within the humanistic disciplines, and between the humanities and the arts. The projects proposed to IPRH for 2019–20 Fellowships may investigate any subject, and the proposals will be evaluated on the scholarly excellence and promise of the project, the applicant’s preparation/readiness to undertake the proposed research, the quality of the narrative proposal, the case made for how the IPRH experience/seminar would be beneficial to the project, and the letters of support.

Eligibility and Terms

Only Urbana campus graduate students are eligible to apply. Applicants should have advanced far enough in their course of graduate study to be proposing working on their final research projects, such as a dissertation or thesis, during the span of the fellowship year, and should be enrolled in a terminal professional degree program (i.e., PhD or MFA; other MA students are not eligible). Ideally, the application is launched after the preliminary examinations have been completed. Graduate students who have previously held an IPRH fellowship may not reapply.

All IPRH Fellows are required to maintain residency on the Illinois campus (residing within a 20-mile radius) during the award year and to attend the Fellows Seminar. Applicants should make certain that their teaching and research obligations do not prevent them from participating fully in IPRH activities, and should identify in the narrative statement any applications being made for other campus or external grants and fellowships.

Graduate Student Fellows receive a $10,000 stipend and a tuition and partial fee waiver.

Application Guidelines

Applications must be submitted online at this URL:

https://my.atlas.illinois.edu/submit/go.asp?id=1257
Applicants will be asked to create a password-protected account, to which they can return multiple times. The application system opens in September 2018. No paper or emailed applications will be accepted. **The online application must be completed and submitted no later than 5 p.m. on November 30, 2018. Referees must submit their letters of reference by 9 a.m. on the following Monday, December 3, 2018.** Please note that IPRH staff will not be available for trouble-shooting after the close of business on November 30, so IPRH strongly recommends applicants submit their materials well before 4:30 p.m. on the 30th.

In addition to completing the online application form, applicants must submit the following materials through the online application system (documents should be double-spaced, and in 12-point Times New Roman font, with one-inch margins; materials that exceed the required length will not be considered):

- **A 100-word abstract with project title.** [Upload under “Abstract.”]
- **A current curriculum vitae,** including a list of all U of I graduate courses taken, papers published, presentations made, and assistantships and fellowships held (maximum 5 pages; this need not be double-spaced, but please consider the committee and render it legible). [Upload under “Curriculum Vitae.”]
- **A statement of 2,000 words** describing the student’s research on the proposed project, including preparation to undertake this research and all progress on the project to date. The word count is exclusive of notes or bibliography, but in deference to the selection committee, a minimalist restraint should be applied to any citational apparatus. [Upload under “Research Statement.”]
- **A pdf of the student's official transcript.** This should be requested through the registrar. Our preference is that you receive a paper copy and scan and upload it. (It will reveal a “copy” watermark, but that is acceptable). If you are off campus and must receive an electronic pdf for uploading, that is also okay, but not as ideal because the encryption on the pdfs provided by third-party Credentials Transcripts Plus does not interact as nicely with our application portal as we would like. Nevertheless, either will be accepted. [Upload under “Transcript.”]
- **Two (2) letters of recommendation to be uploaded by the applicant’s referees, one of which must come from the faculty member supervising the student’s dissertation or equivalent final thesis.** Recommendation letters should speak to the applicant’s abilities and achievements, to his/her progress on the project, and to the intellectual value of the project itself.

IPRH recommends entering recommenders’ names and emails early in the online application process. The application system will generate an email request for letters to those whose names and emails the applicant submits, and the email will provide a unique link to the recommender for uploading the letter. Please note that applicants must enter their personal contact information first before they can proceed to entering references’ information. Doing so enables the system to insert the applicant’s name in the email request to referees. In order for the system to generate those emails, however, the applicant must click “continue” after entering referees’ names and
emails—even if nothing else is to be done in the application at that time. Applications for which both letters of recommendation have not been uploaded by 9 a.m. on Monday, December 3, 2018 will be deemed incomplete and will not be considered. All letters must be uploaded through the application portal. No paper or emailed copies will be accepted.

In the narrative research statement, the applicant should describe his/her research in reasonable detail, explaining its significance to the broader scholarly community at Illinois and elsewhere, and addressing the applicant’s readiness to undertake the project. The statement should also indicate the applicant’s willingness to participate in IPRH activities, especially the Fellows Seminar.

**Deadline**

Online applications must be complete and submitted, by 5 p.m. Central Time on November 30, 2018. Referees must submit their letters of reference by 9 a.m. on the following Monday, December 3, 2018. The application system can be found at: [https://my.atlas.illinois.edu/submit/go.asp?id=1257](https://my.atlas.illinois.edu/submit/go.asp?id=1257). Deadline extensions will not be granted. The review committee will consider only complete applications. It is the responsibility of the applicant to ensure that all documentation is complete, and that referees submit their letters before their deadline. Applicants should be sure that the application documents are complete and should proofread all materials carefully, as no changes are possible once one clicks “submit.” Note that one must click through the final section of the application portal, and hit “continue” in order to have the option to “submit.” Merely uploading all required documents does not constitute “submission.” Applicants must actively submit their applications. The portal will automatically generate an email acknowledgment of your submission. If you do not receive such an email within a reasonable time after clicking “submit,” and do not find one in your spam/junk folders, please touch base with IPRH. IPRH strongly recommends submissions be made prior to 4:30 p.m. on the day of the application deadline, as IPRH staff will not be available to assist with troubleshooting after close of business on Friday, November 30.

**Selection Criteria**

The applications will be reviewed by the IPRH Advisory Committee, who will make their award recommendations to the IPRH; the IPRH Director and Deputy Director serve on the committee in an ex officio capacity. Submissions will be evaluated on the following criteria: the scholarly excellence and promise of the project, the applicant’s preparation/readiness to undertake the proposed research, the quality of the narrative proposal, the case made for how the IPRH experience/seminar would be beneficial to the project, and the letters of support.
Notifications
All applications will be acknowledged via e-mail, and all applicants will be notified in the latter part of the spring 2019 semester, when the search has concluded. Please do not contact IPRH about the status of an application, unless you are having difficulties with online submission; because of the volume of applications IPRH receives, we are unable to answer questions about the suitability of particular research topics or the progress of the review and selection process.

Go to the application system at https://my.atlas.illinois.edu/submit/go.asp?id=1257, where you will be asked to create an account. The system opens September 1, 2018.

Questions about these fellowships and eligibility for them may be addressed to Nancy Castro at ncastro@illinois.edu or 244-7913.