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# Alumni Association Dissertation Award

Office of Graduate Fellowships and Awards Administration, 209 Kern Building, University Park, PA 16802; 814-865-2514; 814-863-1091 (fax) U.Ed.GRD08-05

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**Purpose** To provide funding and recognition to outstanding full-time doctoral students who have passed their comprehensive exams, have received approval of the dissertation topic and are within final year, or to M.F.A. students in their final year.

**Number of Awards** Pending receipt of qualified applications, a minimum of two awards of \$5,000 will be made for each of the following categories: Fine Arts and Humanities; Social Sciences - Applied and Basic; Physical and Computational Sciences - Applied and Basic; Life and Health Sciences; and Engineering. In the event that qualified nominations are not received in a given category, those fellowships may be awarded in another category at the discretion of the dean of the Graduate School.

**Eligibility** The funds will be awarded directly to the students and WILL NOT replace existing college or departmental support. Applicants must have completed all coursework, language requirements, the comprehensive examination, have received the approval of the dissertation topic and be within their final year of study (i.e. graduating either Spring, Summer, or Fall 2010).

Funds will be disbursed into the students' accounts during the spring 2010 semester. Students must be registered for SUBJ 601 or nine credits (D.Ed. or M.F.A. students) in order to be eligible for the funds during the spring semester.

**Application** Because of the limited number of awards available, one nomination per program may be submitted by the program chair to the college's associate dean for graduate studies. Each college associate dean for graduate studies will review the nominations and select **three** to be forwarded to the Office of Graduate Fellowships and Awards Administration. *For the Intercollege Graduate Degree Programs, nominations should be submitted to the senior associate dean of the Graduate School.* One copy of the application materials (collated in the order listed below) should be sent by the relevant program chair to the college associate dean for graduate studies and should include:

- a completed coversheet (see attached);
- a descriptive summary of the dissertation topic and significant aspects of the work suitable for an audience of educated lay people (**maximum two pages**);
- a reference letter from the dissertation adviser evaluating the merits of the proposed project and discussing the contributions the student has made to his/her field, i.e., presentations, papers, awards, or other evidence of superiority, *and a confirming statement that the student is within their final year of study*;
- an unofficial transcript of graduate work taken at Penn State;
- a concise biographical sketch including information such as memberships in professional associations, awards, special professional recognition, etc. (**maximum two pages**)

Associate deans will then forward a total of three nominations (each as a PDF file in electronic format) to the Office of Graduate Fellowships and Awards Administration (cis5@psu.edu), 209 Kern Graduate Bldg.

**Deadline** The deadline for submission of all materials to the Graduate School is November 2, 2009. *Please note: many colleges set earlier deadlines. Check with your college as to when materials need to be submitted for their consideration.*

**Selection Process** Members of the Graduate Council Committee on Fellowships and Awards will select the recipients. Applicants will be notified by letter of the award decision. Recipients will be honored at the Graduate School Alumni Society's Annual Spring Social and Recognition Program.

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# Coversheet

Office of Graduate Fellowships and Awards Administration; 209 Kern Building, University Park, PA 16802; 814-865-2514; 814-863-1091 (fax)

Applicant's Full Name (Last, First, M.I.)

Student ID Number

Mailing Address

E-mail Address

Telephone Number(s)

1. Graduate Program: \_\_\_\_\_
2. Category (Must be completed for nomination to be considered. **Please select only one.**):  
 Fine Arts and Humanities     Engineering     Life and Health Sciences  
 Physical and Computational Sciences - Applied and Basic     Social Sciences - Applied and Basic
3. Dissertation Title: \_\_\_\_\_
4. Dissertation Adviser: \_\_\_\_\_
5. Campus Location:     University Park     Other \_\_\_\_\_
6. Degree Sought: \_\_\_\_\_ Expected Graduation Date: \_\_\_\_\_
7. Date Comprehensive Exam Passed: \_\_\_\_\_
8. Attach a copy of your most recent Penn State transcript (unofficial transcripts are acceptable).
9. List any relevant awards, professional publications (including those in press, with letter substantiating acceptance), and presentations at professional meetings (use additional page(s) if necessary):

Applicant's Signature

Date

Name  
Graduate Program Chair

Signature

Date

Name  
College Associate Dean for Graduate Studies

Signature

Date

**Please submit a collated copy of the nomination in PDF format to the Office of Graduate Fellowships and Awards Administration (cis5@psu.edu) by Nov. 2, 2009.  
Check with your college as they may have set an earlier deadline.**

