Center for Humanities and Information

Predoctoral Fellows Program

The CHI Predoctoral Fellows program is sponsored by the Center, the College of the Liberal Arts, and the University Libraries. This program supports graduate student research in the humanities, providing up to six Penn State graduate students a yearlong graduate assistantship and a $1,000 research fund. For 2024-25 the expected level of stipend support is $23,500. Fellows have access to research design support, as well as to grant-writing workshops, career mentoring, and archival/library support and consultation. No office space will be provided; Fellows are expected to use space in their home departments.

Fellows are expected to be at University Park during most of their funded year and to participate in the Center’s colloquia and public lectures. There is no teaching obligation. Graduate students who wish to submit a collaborative application with an applicant for another CHI program (the faculty or visiting fellowships) should indicate so on their application.

Per College of the Liberal Arts requirements, CHI predoctoral fellowships substitute for departmental funding. They cannot be used to lengthen the time of expected support from home departments or from Penn State more generally.

Application Deadline

Friday, November 3, 2023

Eligibility

Graduate students in any field currently enrolled in a PhD program at Penn State’s University Park campus are eligible for this program. Applicants must have passed their comprehensive exams before August 2024 in order to take up the fellowship.

Because CHI support comes primarily from the College of the Liberal Arts, students associated with Liberal Arts will receive priority, though students from any College engaged in humanistic research on information are welcome to apply.

Students in the College of the Liberal Arts may only accept one internal fellowship award from the College or its affiliated Centers, Institutes, or programs in any given academic year.  Students receiving multiple award offers will be asked to select one.  Students are eligible to reapply or be nominated for other fellowship opportunities in subsequent years.

How to Apply

All applications must include the following:

1. Cover page with applicant’s name and contact information (including campus address and e-mail), date of comprehensive exams, name of advisor and committee, and project title.
2. Description of project, including scholarly significance, relevance to CHI’s mission, and current state of completion (max. 900 words). Please indicate if this is a collaborative application, and explain the planned structure of the collaboration.
3. Curriculum vitae (not to exceed four pages).
4. One confidential letter of evaluation from the applicant’s dissertation advisor or other faculty mentor attesting to the quality of the application, to the applicant’s record of achievement, and to the applicant’s intellectual and academic promise.
5. A short letter from the department Head or Director of Graduate Studies indicating the department’s understanding that CHI funding cannot be used to extend the normal time of support for graduate students.

Please collect all these documents into **one** PDF file. They should be emailed by the DGS or Department Head to CHI ([infocenter@psu.edu](mailto:infocenter@psu.edu)) by 5pm on the deadline date. Please use the subject line “Predoctoral Fellows.”

Review Process

Proposals will be evaluated and recommendations made to the Director by a subcommittee of CHI’s Associate Directors and fellows.

Reporting Requirements

Thirty days after the close of the grant period (consult award letter for exact date), a report must be filed with the Center on the results of the residency.

For more information, contact:

Eric Hayot / [infocenter@psu.edu](mailto:infocenter@psu.edu)

[www.chi.psu.edu](http://www.chi.psu.edu/)