



2023–2024 IGCC Dissertation Fellowship Competition

Application deadline extended : 12:00 p.m. PST, Monday, February 6, 2023

At a Glance

- The University of California Institute on Global Conflict and Cooperation (IGCC) will award up to eleven regular dissertation fellowships and one specially designated Herb York Fellowship for the 2023–2024 academic year.
- The Herb York Fellowship honors IGCC's founding director, [Dr. Herbert F. York](#), and is made possible by generous support from the York family.
- Fellowships include a nine-month stipend of \$25,000 to defray living expenses. It is not intended for UC student fees, tuition, or health insurance.
- Doctoral students enrolled in the University of California, including JD/PhD, MD/PhD, and MD with thesis, are eligible to apply.
- Applicants must advance to candidacy by **June 30, 2023. NO EXCEPTIONS.**
- U.S. citizenship is not required.
- Fellowships are for one year and may not be carried into future years.

Questions? Email mthiveos@ucsd.edu or call 858-822-4959

ABOUT IGCC

The UC Institute on Global Conflict and Cooperation (IGCC) is a research network comprised of scholars from across the University of California and the Los Alamos and Lawrence Livermore National Laboratories who produce and use research to help build a more peaceful, prosperous world. Our focus is on challenges that have the potential to lead to wide-scale conflict, and that can benefit from global cooperation to solve. Our portfolio includes both traditional security issues—defense innovation, strategy and deterrence, nuclear weapons policy, and security cooperation—and emerging and non-traditional challenges such as environmental threats, geoeconomics and great power competition, and threats to democracy. In each of these areas, IGCC builds diverse, multidisciplinary research teams that analyze the causes and consequences of global conflict—and help develop practical solutions. The Institute is based at the School of Global Policy and Strategy at UC San Diego, where several members of the leadership team and a number of researchers are on the faculty.

TOPICS

To examine the complex range of issues in our fast-evolving global environment, IGCC seeks to support dissertations around research topics that closely track with current global security priorities and IGCC's mission. The proposed dissertation research must have one of the following themes as an integral part of the project.

1. **Climate Change and Security:** Global climate change will challenge international governance systems, force a reimagining of the roles of militaries and defense communities, spark migration and border disputes, disrupt global trade, prompt conflict within and between countries over scarce resources, and threaten social cohesion and economic stability.

IGCC will accept proposals on a range of themes, including the impacts of climate change on:

- Migration, Refugees, and Border Disputes
- Trade and Global Value Chains
- Energy Security, Food Security, Water, and Infrastructure
- Political Violence, Radicalization, Fragility
- Implications for Militaries and the Defense Community
- International Governance and Finance

2. **Future of Democracy:** Democracy is under attack at the local, national, and international levels. Many Western democracies, including the United States, face significant democratic backlash at home. Authoritarian states are proliferating. And many influences are now adverse for democracy, including seemingly democratic technology, rhetoric, rules and institutions.

In this category, we will accept proposals on: challenges to democratic representation, including disparities in access to the democratic process at different levels of governance; challenges to elections; inclusive democracy; technology and democracy, including how different types of technology can harm and strengthen democracy; the rise of authoritarian states, and the authoritarian turn in international relations; state repression; protest movements; and human rights, including how struggles over human rights within a nation might spill over to affect international security.

3. **Geoeconomics, Innovation, and National Security:** The economic dimensions of geostrategic and geopolitical cooperation and competition are becoming increasingly important. Strategic competition today extends beyond the traditional domains of military and defense, to include economic, business, financial, technological, geostrategic, and political spheres. In a rapidly

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changing world, where the economies of the great powers are increasingly interconnected, geo-economics are the most important weapon among rivals, and new technologies, particularly cyber, are creating new arenas for competition where international governance structures have not yet emerged and traditional security concepts, such as deterrence, are inadequate.

Proposals will be accepted on: the economic sources of national security; security dimensions of industrial policy and trade relations; economic statecraft; economic instruments such as trade, investment, and sanctions to promote and defend national interests; the effects of economic actions by other countries and international institutions on a country's geopolitical goals; and the use of economic instruments to produce beneficial geopolitical results.

4. **Indo-Pacific and the Rise of China:** China's rise as an advanced technological, innovation, and industrial powerhouse is one of the most profound developments of the 21st century and promises to reshape the global economic and technological order. Issues emanating from the Indo-Pacific region—including the implications of North Korea's nuclear program, and shifts in global supply chains—have implications for global security.

Proposals will be accepted on: the implications of China's rise and shifting geopolitical dynamics in Asia for the economic competitiveness and national security of the United States and the rest of the world, including geoeconomics, geopolitics, national security, the environment, defense modernization, technology, and innovation.

5. **International Security:** The international security landscape is rapidly changing. Old definitions of what international security means, and what role states play, are evolving, while challenges proliferate beyond traditional domains.

We will accept proposals on a range of traditional, as well as emerging, international security issues, including:

- **Defense and Military Issues:** The roles of military establishments; the nature and employment of military power; civil-military relations; arms competition; defense science, technology, and innovation; changes in the maritime environment; and the nature of the evolving military landscape at the global and regional level.
 - **Nuclear Nonproliferation:** Proliferation, rules and norms, nuclear nonproliferation regime, international cooperation on monitoring and enforcement of nonproliferation, state behavior, threats from non-state actors, weakness of the nonproliferation regime.
 - **Disinformation and Cybercrime:** Partnerships between hostile states and non-state actors in cyberspace, effects of technological innovation, relationships between private and state actors, deterring and addressing cyber threats and disinformation, the economics of disinformation, the impacts of disinformation.
 - **Political Violence:** Ethnic and religious conflicts, unconventional terrorist threats, root causes of terrorism, threats from civil wars and failed states, state repression.
6. **Regional and Major Power Relations and Institutions:** Despite the emergence of new threats from non-state actors, the risk of interstate conflict remains substantial. Topics in this category may include: building global and regional multilateral institutions; role of rising powers; public versus public/private partnerships in governance; regional threat environment's influence on nuclear proliferation; why some ethnic and religious conflicts become international wars; great

power competition in the 21st century versus historical examples; the rise of China and its impact on the security and economies of East Asia and the United States.

7. **Global Health Threats and Cooperation:** Global pandemics have consequences for economies and for security, as well as for the well being of billions of people. Topics in this category may include: emerging transnational health threats; incentives, policies, and technologies that foster international agreements on health protection as well as strategies to adapt to emerging global threats; security implications of global health threats.

RELEVANCE

The competition is open to all academic disciplines. Multidisciplinary approaches and policy-relevant work are encouraged.

Proposals are scored on both **relevance** and **quality**.

To meet IGCC criteria for relevance,

1. the proposed research must fit within one of the themes; and
2. the international **sources** and/or **consequences** of the phenomenon studied must be an integral part of the project.

Your project will not be funded if it does not explicitly address the relevance criteria.

We accept studies of domestic processes that have international implications; however, you must clearly make the case in your proposal as to how these domestic processes relate to international conditions, either as causes or effects.

Make sure you explain how your work will advance academic understanding and inform policy, or have other practical applications.

Keep in mind that your proposal will be read and scored by a multidisciplinary committee from across the social sciences. Make sure that your proposal does not rely heavily on disciplinary jargon and can be understood by such an audience.

NUMBER OF AWARDS

We expect to make 12 fellowship awards this year. One will be designated the Herb York IGCC Fellow.

HOW TO APPLY

NOTE: This fellowship proposal does not require the participation of a principal investigator.

A complete application will include these required elements.

1. **Applicant information:** Complete the applicant information section on the web form.
2. **Abstract:** Provide a brief abstract (max 1,000 words) of your proposal on the web form.
3. **Relevance:** Be explicit about how your proposal relates to the theme you have selected as well as the international sources and/or consequences of the phenomenon studied. This will be a field in the web form. (max 1,000 words).
4. **Proposal narrative:** Upload as a pdf. The narrative description of the project must not exceed 1,500 words. This limit is strictly enforced. The narrative should include:

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- a. **A description of the research problem and goals:** What questions will your research answer and why does it matter?
- b. **Research design and methods:** Include a specific research design and/or *conceptual* description of any models to be evaluated. Explain the procedures you will employ (such as archival work, interviews, statistical analysis) to answer your research question. Indicate how IGCC funds will enable you to undertake these procedures. This should make up the bulk of the narrative and usually distinguishes the proposals that receive funding.
- c. **Timeline:** Progress to date and schedule for completion.
- d. **Literature citations:** The narrative must demonstrate the applicant's knowledge of the existing literature surrounding the research topic. This may be demonstrated through use of footnotes, a literature review, or a bibliography. Citations do not count against the word count or appendix limit. The application will not be reviewed if citations are not included.
- e. **Appendix:** Models, sample interview questions, data sources, and so on may be added as an appendix to the narrative. The appendix is not included in the word count, but is limited to **no more than two pages**.

5. Curriculum vitae

6. **Transcripts:** Applicants may cut and paste their academic record from their school's website or scan their transcript. Transcript does not have to be official.
7. **Two letters of recommendation, sent directly by the letter writers:** One letter of recommendation must be from your advisor. Letters must be on department letterhead and emailed from the evaluator's campus email address.

NOTE: It is the applicant's responsibility to verify that both letters of recommendation have been received. Applicants may do so by emailing mthiveos@ucsd.edu. Recommendation letters received after the application deadline will not be included with initial proposal review.

DEADLINES

Online application materials must be submitted by **Monday, February 6, 2023 at 12:00p.m. PST**.

We will not review late or incomplete applications.

LOCAL CAMPUS REQUIREMENTS

Your campus may have internal requirements and deadlines that must be followed when applying for financial support. Contact your department's business administrator or your student affairs staff for guidance.

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PROPOSAL REVIEW AND AWARD NOTIFICATION

The dissertation fellowships are awarded by the IGCC Steering Committee, a multidisciplinary group of representatives from each UC campus and the Lawrence Livermore and Los Alamos National Laboratories.

A list of current Steering Committee members is here: <https://ucigcc.org/people/#steering-committee>

NOTE: The initial review of the proposal will not involve the committee member from the student's home campus.

Applicants will receive written notification of results by early July 2023.

AWARD DURATION

The dissertation fellowships are for nine months (October–June) and may not be carried into future years. Recipients must use the fellowship in the designated award year. Unspent funds must be returned to IGCC at the end of the award year. No continuations or renewals are allowed.

RECEIPT OF ADDITIONAL AWARDS

IGCC fellows may be eligible to accept additional grants or awards from other agencies, especially funding that covers UC tuition and registration fees.

IGCC reserves the right to negotiate cost-sharing agreements directly with other award agencies. IGCC will determine any final award amount or cost share based on level of support obtained and the extended project budget.

INDIRECT COSTS (IDC)

These awards are not subject to IDC.

ADMINISTRATION OF FELLOWSHIP AWARD

- At the time of award, IGCC dissertation fellowship funds are transferred to the awardee's graduate home department and administered locally. Funds are administered through the student's graduate department business office, not by the IGCC central office.
- Transfers are usually received by the home campus in October.
- Fellowship stipend payments are arranged at the home campus in accordance with local campus procedures. IGCC does not send fellowship payments directly to awardees.
- Check with your graduate department's fiscal administrator if you have questions about disbursement of your award.
- IGCC fellowships are not intended for UC student fees, tuition, or health insurance.
- All funding is contingent on IRB approval where applicable.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

For additional information, contact Marie Thiveos Stewart (mthiveos@ucsd.edu, 858-822-4959).

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