Graduate Division Fellowships 25-26

This document outlines three open fellowship applications with a deadline of **January 16, 2026:**

- **Dissertation Completion Fellowship Award (DCFA) - Round 2**
- **Dissertation Year Fellowship Awards (DYFA)**
- **UC–HSI DDI President's Pre-Professoriate Fellowship (UC-HSI DDI PPPF)**

Dissertation Completion Fellowship Award (DCFA)

The Dissertation Completion Fellowship Award (DCFA) supports Ph.D. students in the **final stages of their degree.** The award provides **up to two quarters** of stipend and tuition support ($11,500 per quarter). Students requesting support for two quarters must include a **justification in their timeline** and provide **confirmation from their Dissertation (Thesis) Advisor**.

Application Calls:
1. ~~September 2025 with a deadline of October 17th to award for Winter 2026.~~
2. Deadline is January 16th, 2026, to award in Spring 2026 and, if needed, Summer 2026

Guidelines:

- **Graduation Requirement:** Students must graduate within the award period. Failure to do so may affect the Graduate Program's ability to nominate future students.
- **Employment Eligibility:** DCFA recipients are **not eligible for employment** after the fellowship period ends.
- **Exceptions:** If unusual circumstances arise, contact **GradAwards** before the fellowship ends. Requests will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis.
- **Advisor Confirmation:** The Dissertation Advisor and Graduate Advisor must acknowledge the student's thesis timeline and confirm the plan to graduate within the award period.

Examples of student timelines can be found at the end of this document.

Eligibility Criteria:

1. Must be a Ph.D. student who has advanced to candidacy by January 16th, 2026.
2. Must not have more than 7 units of incomplete grades.
3. Can be on leave to apply but must be enrolled as a full-time student (12 units) during tenure of fellowship.
4. International and domestic students are eligible to apply.

Application Requirements

- Student application link: https://grad.ucr.edu/portal/current_fellow_apps
- A research statement (maximum 1 page)
- A detailed timeline toward graduation
- <u>One</u> recommendation letter provided by the student's Faculty Mentor or Thesis Advisor**.**

Program Review Process:

- Graduate Programs should generate their internal review process to determine nominations. This should be done by the committee to minimize conflicts of interest.
- The letter of recommendation should confirm the proposed completion timeline and affirm the student's readiness to finish their dissertation within the award period.
- Student applications will be accessible to the program review committee via Slate
    - https://grad.ucr.edu/manage/reader/
- Nominations can be submitted by the Graduate Advisor, Graduate Program Coordinator/Student Affairs Staff via Slate.
    - Direct student submissions will not be accepted.
- The number of DCFA nominations allowed per program is based on program size (see Tables 1 & 2).
- If prior DCFA's have not graduated at the time of nomination allocation (September of each year), program nomination allocations will be reduced.
- It is expected that the success rate will be around 50% with ~100 quarters of support being awarded and subject to availability of funds.

Review Criteria

- All fellowships award excellence in the student's discipline.
- Graduate Programs are required to submit justification for why a student excels in their discipline. Part of that justification should be in the form of a Graduate Program specific rubric generated by the program to highlight by what criteria students are evaluated.
- Please let your students know that writing advice specifically for these awards can be provided by Grad Success' Writing Center. https://gwc.ucr.edu/

Award Notification

Once eligibility has been verified by the Graduate Division, award decisions will be announced in February 2026.

This timeline allows programs to plan accordingly and issue TA/GSR letters to students who are not selected.

Dissertation Year Completion (DCFA's) Nominations for Each Program

Please find below a complete list of PhD offering Graduate Programs in alphabetical order. The total number of students has been calculated at the beginning of the academic year. If you disagree with your current number of PhD students, please contact us. The allocation of nominations has been distributed using Table 1.

Table 1

Number of Students in Program	Number of nominations
<25	1
25-50	2
51-100	3
>100	4

Table 2

Graduate Program	#total students	Nominations
Anthropology	46	2
Applied Statistics	44	2
Art History	14	1
Astronomy	18	1
Biochemistry and Molecular Bio	45	2
Bioengineering	53	3
Biomedical Sciences	35	2
Biophysics	24	1
Business Administration	5	1
Cell, Molecular, and Development	37	2
Chemical & Environmental Engr	76	3
Chemistry	149	4
Comparative Literature	25	2
Computer Science	190	4
Critical Dance Studies	19	1
Earth & Planetary Sciences	40	2
Economics	63	3
Education	76	2
Electrical Engineering	111	4
English	53	3
Entomology	40	2
Environmental Sciences	26	2
Environmental Toxicology	31	2
Ethnic Studies	16	1
Evoltn, Ecol & Organismal Bio	57	3

Genetics, Genomics & Bioinform	30	2
History	51	3
Materials Science and Engineer	38	2
Mathematics	85	3
Mechanical Engineering	66	3
Microbiology	37	2
Music	25	2
Neuroscience	50	2
Philosophy	37	2
Physics	119	4
Plant Biology	62	3
Plant Pathology	26	2
Political Science	63	3
Psychology	98	3
Religious Studies	19	1
Sociology	12	1
Spanish	29	2

Dissertation Year Fellowship Awards (DYFA's)

The Dissertation Year Fellowship Award (DYFA) provides financial support to outstanding Ph.D. students who are in the final stages of their dissertation research and are expected to complete their degree during the **upcoming academic year.** The Dissertation Year Award is designed to release PhD students from teaching and other duties, allowing them to fully focus on writing their dissertation in a timely manner and graduating.

The fellowship offers one year of support (3 quarters), to be awarded in the **following academic year**, including:

- A quarterly stipend of $12,000
- Full tuition and fees
- An additional $1,000 travel award

Recipients are required to attend an award ceremony at the University of California Office of the President (UCOP) in the Fall, with travel costs covered by the Graduate Division.

Applications open in the Fall, after which programs review candidates and submit **1 nomination** by the deadline **January 16, 2026.** Nominations are then reviewed and announced in the Winter, with funding beginning in Summer or Fall 2026.

Each year, only the top 3 students are chosen.

Eligibility Criteria

- Must be a Ph.D. student who has advanced to candidacy by January 16th, 2026.
- Must have > 3.5 GPA
- Must not have more than 7 units of incomplete grades.
- Must be making acceptable progress toward the degree.
  - For these purposes, acceptable progress for a Ph.D. student means advanced to candidacy within 15 quarters after entry and must complete the degree by the normative time to degree for the program plus 1 year at time of degree.
- Can be on leave to apply but must be enrolled as a full-time student (12 units) during tenure of fellowship.
- International and domestic students are eligible to apply.

<div style="background-color:#f0d0ec; text-align:center;">

UC-HSI DDI President's Pre-Professoriate Fellowship

</div>

This program is designed to strengthen faculty pathways for historically underrepresented groups, including Latinx, African Americans, American Indians/Native Americans, Filipinx, and Pacific Islanders across all disciplines; women in STEM; and Asian Americans in the humanities and social sciences. It offers fellowships to domestic students from California Hispanic-Serving Institutions (HSIs) who belong to these groups. This funding allows recipients to focus on completing their degrees in a timely manner without additional work obligations.

The fellowship offers one year of support (3 quarters), to be awarded in the **following academic year**, including:

- A $12,000 quarterly stipend
- Full tuition and fees
- A $10,000 professional development grant, to be used during the student's PhD

Application opens in the Fall, after which programs review candidates and submit **1 nomination** by the deadline **January 16, 2026.** Awardees will be notified in Winter/Spring 26, with funding beginning in Fall 2026.

Funded by the University of California Office of the President (UCOP).

Only 3 students are selected annually.

Eligibility Criteria:

- Must be a Ph.D. student.
- Must be a citizen or permanent resident of the United States (AB540 status is ok)
- Demonstrate exceptional academic and research achievement.
- Must have received their undergraduate or master's degree from a California Hispanic Serving Institution (CA HSI)—public or private.
- Must have advanced to candidacy prior to being selected for the fellowship.

- Must have letters of support from Faculty Advisor(s) that address the student's performance and potential as an exceptional academic, and comment on the likelihood that the student will pursue a professoriate path after receiving their PhD.
- Must have a demonstrated record of advancing issues of inclusion, equity, and contribution to society; actively supporting underrepresented communities; and shows commitment to pursuing these efforts throughout their career.
- Must be actively engaged in scholarly research leading to the dissertation.
- Must not have more than 7 units of incomplete grades.
- Must be making acceptable progress toward the degree.
    - For these purposes, acceptable progress for a Ph.D. student means advanced to candidacy within 15 quarters after entry and must complete the degree by the normative time to degree for the particular program plus 1 year at time of degree.
- Can be on leave to apply but must be enrolled as a full-time student (12 units) during tenure of fellowship.

DYFA and UC–HSI DDI PPPF Applications

Application Requirements

Student application link: https://grad.ucr.edu/portal/current_fellow_apps

Each application must include:

1. Two letters of recommendations from faculty members
    a. One letter must be from the dissertation/thesis advisor
    b. The second letter may be from UCR faculty member
2. A research statement (maximum 2 page)
3. A Societal Contribution Statement (1-2 paragraphs)

Program Review Process

- Graduate Programs must establish an internal review process to determine their nominees. This review should be conducted by a committee to avoid conflicts of interest.
- Nominations can be submitted by the Graduate Advisor, Graduate Program Coordinator/Student Affairs Staff via Slate.
    - Direct submissions from students are not accepted.
- The DYFA and UC–HSI DDI PPPF support students who demonstrate exceptional achievement in their field.
- The Research Statement should be written so that readers from any discipline can understand the significance and impact of the work.
- The "Societal Contribution Statement" asks students to explain how they and their research contribute to society. This 1–2 paragraph attachment replaces the previous Diversity Statement.
- Please inform your students that the Grad Success Writing Center offers writing guidance specifically tailored to these awards.

Examples of Student Timelines

Possible Humanities Examples	Possible STEM Examples
My dissertation requires extensive research at multiple specific library locations that house collections on the historical impact of social security in the 6th Century. My thesis has three major chapters discussing the development of income support in 1512 and its impact on the fishing industry; the housing incentivization in 1525 and its role in female chore building and lastly the institutionalization of poverty from 1500 onwards. I have presented papers at the international meeting on 12th Century Domestics and at the Swedish National Archives in February and April respectively. In June-July I conducted a final research visit to Saint Genevieve library in France. I have now completed all planned research visits. In October I completed the first chapter of my thesis, the introduction. This has been approved by my advisors along with my literature review. I am currently writing chapter 2. Final edits to this chapter are expected to be completed in early Winter. I will also be TAing in the Winter quarter. I plan to use the Spring quarter to write and finalize my final dissertation chapter. With the help of a DCFA I expect to finish and defend my thesis at the end of Spring or early Summer. I am on the job market and have interviewed for academic teaching positions with the aim to start in the next academic year.	My project investigates the role of fleb signaling in Q cell proliferation. I have 3 specific aims firstly to test the kinetics of fleb signaling following ARC Receptor stimulation; to determine the partner proteins activated by fleb following its phosphorylation and to test the role of fleb in Q proliferation by blocking its activation. I have completed the first two specific aims from which I have a first author manuscript published in Nature Fleb Reports. I am currently finalizing the analysis of the data for the third aim. These experiments have been optimized, and 2 replicate data sets have been generated. By the end of this current quarter, I will have generated the last replicate data set. The manuscript for this study is being written and I am currently revising based on my mentor's edits. I expect to submit this manuscript to the Journal of Expectations in the Winter quarter. I have started writing my thesis in parallel with my paper. Two chapters have been completed, and I believe I will have completed this writing by early Spring quarter. Revision of the manuscript and my defense will take place at the end of Spring quarter. I plan to stay in academia and am currently applying for postdoctoral positions including at UCAB on Q cell migration in the lung during infection.
My research uses two predominant forms of research methods: relational interviewing and theoretical and textual analysis. Relational interviewing consists of semi-structured conversations with participants around the country. I have intentionally chosen institutions at both the East and West coasts and Mid-Western parts of the USA to diversify my results. The interview portion of my research has been completed as of June 2024. As I interviewed participants, I have been writing reflections which is a major part of my second chapter and as a result chapter 2 has been straight forward	September: Finish the writing of the Supplementary information of my second paper and respond to the reviewers' comments of my first paper submitted to Trends in Quantodynamics. October: Finish writing the main text of my second paper and submit. Continue to finalize first paper resubmission. November: Wait for reviewer's comments to first and second papers. Conduct final experiments if needed and analyze results. December: Write draft of dissertation and discuss with advisor.

writing. The other chapters require theoretical and contextual analysis which has been completed. The writing of these chapters is ongoing and should be complete and ready for my advisors by the middle of Winter quarter. I expect to finalize edits and seek permission to defend in early Spring.	January: Continue writing dissertation and make edits according to feedback. February: Complete the dissertation writing and submit the complete draft to my committee. March: Make revisions based on committee feedback. April: Finalize dissertation, format and prepare for submission May: Submit thesis, complete my defense and graduate.