Dissertation Year Fellowships

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About The Dissertation Year Fellowships

There are three types of Dissertation Year Fellowships that are offered annually during the Spring Quarter.

- UC President's Dissertation Year Fellowship (PDYF)
- Fletcher Jones Fellowship (FJF)
- Dissertation Year Fellowship funded by the Marye Anne Fox Endowed Fellowship Fund (MAF)

Each fellowship is named and detailed below. All three fellowships are terminal support awards and only candidates projected to finish during the twelve-month award period (July 1, 2022, through June 30, 2023) should be nominated. Convincing evidence that the nominee can complete all degree requirements by June 30, 2023, will be an important consideration in selecting Fellows. Fellowship recipients will be selected from one pool of nominations. Fellowships will be reviewed by an interdisciplinary group of faculty and staff.

Applicants should be nominated by their graduate programs, no self-nominations will be accepted. Graduate Programs may nominate a total of three candidates across all three dissertation year fellowships. This is a combined total of three nominations for the Dissertation Year Fellowship, the Fletcher Jones Fellowship, and the Marye Anne Fox Endowed Fellowship.

The deadline to submit nominations is Wednesday, May 25, 2022.

Fellowship Descriptions and Nomination Guidelines

UC President's Dissertation Year Fellowship

The Office of the President has allotted UCSD five (5) President’s Dissertation Year Fellowships. The program is designed to identify doctoral candidates who have been educationally or economically disadvantaged or whose research or planned career direction focuses on problems related to disadvantaged segments of society. Dissertation Year Fellowships are to be awarded to promising students in the final stages of their doctoral work who demonstrate strong potential for university teaching and research. Because the President’s Dissertation Year Fellowship is one of the University-wide fellowship programs for diversity, we hope to obtain a diverse pool of nominees.

Program Objectives

Fellowships will be awarded to students:

- Who have been educationally or economically disadvantaged, or
- Whose research or planned career direction focuses on problems related to disadvantaged segments of society, and
- Who demonstrate strong potential, promise and a desire for a university teaching and research career.

Eligibility Requirements

1. A U.S. citizen or permanent resident.
2. Candidate must have advanced to candidacy for the Ph.D. degree at the time of nomination.
3. Candidate must be making satisfactory progress towards completing the dissertation such that a dissertation-year award will be sufficient for the candidate to complete all Ph.D. degree requirements during the award year.
4. Acceptance that the award precludes instructional employment in graduate academic titles for recipients during their tenure as Dissertation Year Fellows. With the exception of "from the conclusion of Spring courses to the first day of Fall courses". Additionally, supplemental Graduate Student Researcher (GSR) or research fellow appointments will be considered by exception request provided the research supports the Fellow’s dissertation work.
5. Eligibility for student support through the award period.

Awards

Five (5) candidates will be awarded the UC President’s Dissertation Year Fellowship. Each award will include:
Fletcher Jones Dissertation Fellowship

The Office of the President has allotted UCSD one (1) Fletcher Jones Fellowship for each academic year. The Fletcher Jones Fellowship Program, which is supported by gifts received from the Fletcher Jones Foundation of Los Angeles, offers one of the University’s most prestigious and generously funded fellowships.

Program Objectives

Fellowships will be awarded to students who are economically disadvantaged as demonstrated through dependence on student loans or greater than 50% employment as a means to finance their education.

Eligibility Requirements

1. A U.S. citizen or permanent resident.
2. Must demonstrate financial need
3. Candidate must have advanced to candidacy for the Ph.D. degree at the time of nomination.
4. Candidate must be making satisfactory progress towards completing the dissertation such that a dissertation-year award will be sufficient for the candidate to complete all Ph.D. degree requirements during the award year.
5. Acceptance that the award precludes instructional employment in graduate academic titles for recipients during their tenure as Fletcher Jones Fellows. With the exception of "from the conclusion of Spring courses to the first day of Fall courses". Additionally, supplemental Graduate Student Researcher (GSR) or research fellow appointments will be considered by exception request provided the research supports the Fellow’s dissertation work.
6. Eligibility for student support through the award period.
7. All disciplines offered by the General Campus are eligible, with the exception of Business Management. The disciplines offered in the Health Sciences are also eligible, with the exception of Medicine.

Awards

One (1) candidate will be selected for the Fletcher Jones Dissertation Fellowship. Each Award will include:

- $23,500 stipend*
- $500 travel allowance, to be used for travel to another school or campus in California
- The full cost of resident tuition** and fees must also be covered on the student’s behalf. The student’s degree-granting program is responsible for identifying the funding source and disbursing the tuition & fee payments.

This fellowship is a terminal support award. Nominated candidates must be projected to finish during the twelve-month award period (July 1 through June 30). Convincing evidence that the nominee can complete all degree requirements by June 30 will be an important consideration in the selection process. Awards will be made by the Dean of The Graduate Division before the end of Spring Quarter.

Nomination Materials

All items are required for Fellowship consideration.

1. Brief autobiographical sketch by the student (half page limit)
2. Two-page dissertation synopsis written in a non-technical format for a "lay audience." The synopsis must address the relevance of the student’s research within the academic field.
3. Provide an academic timeline for completion of the dissertation with a projected date of completion.
4. Letter of support from the student’s academic advisor addressing how the student meets the program objectives and the eligibility requirements.
   This may include discussion of relevant non-academic activities, such as community or campus service (three-page limit).
5. A completed nomination form with the signature of the department/program chair.
All items are required for Fellowship consideration.

1. Brief autobiographical sketch by the student (half page limit).
2. Two-page dissertation synopsis written in a non-technical format for a "lay audience." The synopsis must address the relevance of the student's research within the academic field.
3. Provide an academic timeline for completion of the dissertation with a projected date of completion.
4. Letter of support from the student's academic advisor addressing how the student meets the financial need requirement.
5. Completed nomination form with the signature of the department/program chair.

Dissertation Year Fellowship funded by the Marye Anne Fox Endowed Fellowship Fund

One (1) Marye Anne Fox Fellowship for each academic year.

Program Objectives

Fellowships will be awarded to students who demonstrate highly distinguished academic records.

Eligibility Requirements

1. Candidate must demonstrate a highly distinguished academic record for the field.
2. Candidate must have advanced to candidacy for an academic doctoral degree at the time of nomination.
3. Candidate must be making satisfactory progress toward completing the dissertation such that a dissertation-year award will be sufficient for the candidate to complete all doctoral degree requirements during the award year.
4. Acceptance that the award precludes instructional employment in graduate academic titles for recipients during their tenure as Dissertation Year Fellows. With the exception of "from the conclusion of Spring courses to the first day of Fall courses". Additionally, supplemental Graduate Student Researcher (GSR) or research fellow appointments will be considered by exception request provided the research supports the Fellow’s dissertation work.
5. Eligibility for student support through the award period.
6. All disciplines under the jurisdiction of the VC Academic Affairs are eligible. Business Management and Health Sciences are not eligible.

Awards

One (1) candidate will be selected for the Dissertation Year Fellowship funded by the Marye Anne Fox Endowed Fellowship Fund. Each award will include:

- Stipend of $23,500*  
- The full cost of resident tuition** and fees must also be covered on the student’s behalf. The student’s degree-granting program is responsible for identifying the funding source and disbursing the tuition & fee payments.

Nomination Materials

All items are required for Fellowship consideration.

1. Brief autobiographical sketch by the student (half page limit)
2. Two-page dissertation synopsis written in a non-technical format for a "lay audience". The synopsis must address the relevance of the student's research within the academic field.
3. Provide an academic timeline for completion of the dissertation with a projected date of completion.
4. Letter of support from the student's academic advisor.
5. Completed nomination form with the signature of the department/program chair.

*The stipend provided will match the minimum annual support guaranteed by the Graduate Funding Reform. The student will receive an amended letter once the rates are finalized for the current year (the rate is driven by ASE contract negotiation).

**Students who have advanced to candidacy are usually within the UC non-resident supplemental tuition (NRST) waiver period. If a student has exceeded their waiver period, and are not eligible for extended coverage due to COVID-19, the student will be responsible for paying the NRST. The degree-granting department can elect to cover NRST on the student's behalf but is not obligated to do so.
Deadline

In addition to the nomination materials specified above, attach the cover page below to each nomination packet. Each nomination packet should be combined into a single PDF and uploaded to the Google Application Form.


Awardees

2022-2023 Awardees

Read the campus announcement.

2022 Fletcher Jones Fellowship:
Alison Urban, Theatre and Dance

2022 President’s Dissertation Year Fellowship:
Alexander Chen, Chemical Engineering
Andrew Matschiner, Education Studies
Pamela Riviere, Cognitive Science
Melanie West, Ethnic Studies
Phoebe Valdes, Bioengineering

2022 Marye Anne Fox Endowed Fellowship:
Stephanie Nehasil, Biological Sciences

2021-2022 Awardees

Read the campus announcement.

2021 Fletcher Jones Fellowship: The Fletcher Jones Dissertation Year Fellowship includes a $25,000 stipend plus tuition and fees.
Brianne Itaya, Visual Arts

2021 President’s Dissertation Year Fellowship: The President’s Dissertation Year Fellowship includes a $23,500 stipend plus tuition and fees.
Alexia Arani, Anthropology
Dang Do, Political Science
Olga Lazitski Torres, Communication
Sydney Plummer, Scripps Institution of Oceanography
Daniela Zarate, Biological Sciences

2021 Marye Anne Fox Endowed Fellowship: The Marye Anne Fox Endowed Fellowship includes a $23,500 stipend plus tuition and fees.
Uyen Mai, Computer Science and Engineering

2020-2021 Awardees
Read the campus announcement.

2020 Fletcher Jones Fellowship:
Samantha Streuli, Anthropology

2020 President’s Dissertation Year Fellowship:
Sean Bearden, Physics
Elizabeth Clausing, Anthropology
Sam Mitchell, Theatre and Dance
Tashiana Osborne, Scripps Institution of Oceanography
Belinda Ramirez, Anthropology

2020 Marye Anne Fox Endowed Fellowship:
Qiaowan Chang, Nano-engineering

2019-2020 Awardees

2019 Fletcher Jones Fellowship:
Ellen Yelena Gluzman, Communication

2019 President’s Dissertation Year Fellowship:
Amy Kennemore, Anthropology
William Ricardo Valdez, Bioengineering
Riley Taitingfong, Communication
Olivia Quintanilla, Ethnic Studies
Julian Ramirez, Nano-engineering
Osinachi Ajoku, Scripps Institution of Oceanography

Marye Anne Fox Endowed Fellowship:
Bayan Abusneineh, Ethnic Studies
Yanqi Luo, Nano-engineering