College of Liberal Arts and Sciences
2016-2017 Chancellor's Doctoral Fellowships

Call for Proposals

Deadline: 12:00 Noon, Friday, September 11, 2015

PURPOSE
The Chancellor's Doctoral Fellowships are intended to strengthen KU's recruitment of the very best doctoral students and to support those students' timely progress to degree. The fellowship program is an outgrowth of the objectives and strategies identified in Elevating Doctoral Education, Goal 2 of KU's Bold Aspirations strategic plan.

The College's application and selection process is designed to identify those departments best prepared to 1) utilize fellowship funds to recruit and retain the very best doctoral applicants in their discipline or field, 2) leverage those funds to support departmental fundraising efforts, 3) ensure that fellowship recipients complete their degrees on time, and 4) contribute to KU's long-term goals for doctoral education.

This approach serves to promote proven practices in doctoral education, encourage informed (i.e., data-driven) programmatic innovations, and allow departments to consider discipline-specific standards in the selection of fellowship recipients.

OVERVIEW
The College of Liberal Arts and Sciences will award six fellowships for the 2016-2017 academic year. All doctoral programs within the College are eligible to apply, including past recipients of the Chancellor's Doctoral Fellowship.

Departments will be selected for receipt of fellowship funds based on the strength of the application materials and their readiness to achieve the intended outcomes.

Fellows will receive a $25,000 stipend plus resident rate tuition and required fees for five years of doctoral study. Each Fellow will be appointed as a GRA during the first year and the final dissertation year. Departments may elect to appoint the Fellow as either a GRA or GTA (.50 appointment) in the intervening years.

Funds made available by the Chancellor's office will provide for the first and fifth years of doctoral study. For students who complete the degree more quickly, the Chancellor's office will provide support for the first and final dissertation year (e.g., year two, three or four).

REQUIREMENTS
Departments must provide the same level of fellowship support ($25,000 stipend plus tuition and fees) during the three-year period between the first and fifth year of study. This may include appointment as either a GTA or GRA. Departments are expected to make every effort to utilize department funds to cover stipends during the intervening
years. In cases where the gap between regular GTA/GRA salaries and Fellowship stipends is significant, the College will accept requests for additional support to help bridge the gap between standard GTA/GRA salaries. These requests must be included in the proposal.

To be successful in the competition, departments must demonstrate a commitment to the overarching goals of the Chancellor's Doctoral Fellowship program. Selected departments are expected to award the fellowship to the very strongest applicants and to establish and communicate to the Fellow a clear path to completion within five years. That path must include structured mentoring and regular monitoring of the student's progress.

Fellows are required to enroll fulltime during the first year of study and complete the dissertation by the end of the 5th year. It is expected that they will adhere to the department's plan for timely completion and actively participate in the mentoring relationship, including full-time work on the dissertation during the final year of fellowship support.

Outside employment is incompatible with the commitments of the fellowship, especially during the final year of study.

APPLICATION PROCESS
Departments must submit a fellowship program proposal to coga@ku.edu before 12:00 Noon on Friday, September 11, 2015. Late submissions will not be accepted. No extraneous materials will be considered. The proposal should not exceed six double-spaced pages with one-inch margins and 12-point font.

Your proposal should address the following areas:

1. Recruitment – Describe the department's doctoral recruitment goals in terms of quality and diversity and the strategies you have identified to achieve these. How do discipline- or program-specific factors play a role in your recruitment efforts? How do your most recent applicant pools reflect the strengths of your recruitment strategy in terms of quality and diversity? If your proposal is successful, how will you select the Fellow from among your strongest applicants?

2. Program Expectations and Mentoring – Provide a basic overview of your doctoral program. What are the department's goals for the doctoral program and what strategies do you use to evaluate your progress toward these goals? What measures are in place to move a student steadily toward degree completion? How do you ensure effective mentoring for doctoral students at each stage of their graduate career? How do you monitor your students' progress? How do you hold students accountable to timely completion, and how will you ensure that the Fellow completes in 5 years? If summer enrollments prior to the comprehensive exam or Fall/Spring enrollments in excess of 12 hours are necessary to timely completion, please explain.
3. Fundraising and Resource Management – Describe the overall strategy for funding doctoral students in your department. What success have you had in cultivating donors and raising external funds? Are there any unique fundraising challenges for your department or discipline? How have you adjusted your fundraising strategy to address these? Have you made adjustments to program size based upon funding limitations? What priority do you place on funding for doctoral education as compared to other funding priorities? What additional support would you require from the College were your proposal to be successful?

SELECTION PROCESS & CRITERIA
A selection committee appointed by the Dean will assess the merits of each proposal in accordance with the following criteria:

1. Recruitment goals are clear and realistic. There is a specific strategy in place to achieve those goals.

2. The approach to recruitment results in a strong pool of competitive applicants each year or holds great promise to significantly improve the applicant pool in the near term. If awarded the Fellowship, the department will be able to use the funds to recruit from among the very best doctoral student in their discipline.

3. The department has clear goals for their doctoral program and regularly evaluates their progress toward those goals.

4. The structure of the doctoral program and the approach to mentoring supports timely completion of the degree for all students. Time to degree is satisfactory, or the department has taken significant steps to reduce time to degree in recent years.

5. The department is prepared to hold the Fellow accountable to the five-year timeline of the fellowship program.

6. Strategies are in place to make optimal use of existing department resources to support effective doctoral education (e.g., multi-year funding commitments, tracking employment outcomes of graduates).

7. The department is prepared to leverage existing or new resources to raise additional external funds.

In addition to the proposal materials, the selection committee will also consult information provided in the most current Doctoral Program Profiles to aid their decision.

Awards will be announced in early September. Departments that are not successful may request feedback on the selection committee's assessment of their proposal by contacting coga@ku.edu. Successful proposals may be shared with other departments upon request.
ADMINISTRATION OF AWARDS
Funds for the first and fifth year of study will be transferred to the program to be utilized as a 9-month GRA stipend (.50 appointment). First year tuition and fees for Fall and Spring semesters allows for up to twelve credit hours per semester. Final year tuition and fees provides for up to 6 credit hours in the Fall and Spring and 3 credit hours in the Summer.

Tuition payment for summer enrollments for pre-comprehensive exam students and Fall and Spring enrollments in excess of 12 hours is at the discretion of the department, but should be provided if such enrollments are typical of doctoral students in the program and necessary to timely completion. Departments are required to cover such enrollments from department funding sources unless other arrangements have been made with the College in advance.

Departments must provide this same level of tuition support during the second, third, and fourth years. Once the student has completed the comprehensive exam, departments are only required to cover the minimum number of hours required by Graduate Studies for post-comprehensive enrollment. In all cases, tuition support must be sufficient to support the student's timely completion.

Failure to provide the same level of support as indicated above will result in the surrender of the final year of funding. Similarly, if a student withdraws from the program prior to the fifth year, the department agrees to surrender the final year of funding.

Departments must submit information on their fellowship recipient to the College no later than May 1, 2016. Further instructions on this submission will be provided before that date. Departments that are unable to award the fellowship may compete for fellowship support again the following year.

QUESTIONS
Questions may be addressed to Kristine Latta at klatta@ku.edu.