

CENTER FOR AMERICAN POLITICAL STUDIES

HARVARD UNIVERSITY

DISSERTATION RESEARCH FELLOWSHIPS
AND
DISSERTATION COMPLETION FELLOWSHIPS

COVER SHEET

APPLICATION DEADLINE: ~~FEBRUARY 29, 2008~~ **MARCH 12, 2008**

The Center for American Political Studies welcomes applications for Dissertation Research Fellowships and Dissertation Completion Fellowships. Led by faculty from the Departments of Government, Economics, Sociology, and History, the Center for American Political Studies (CAPS) is an interdisciplinary collegium devoted to fostering discussion, research, public outreach, and pedagogy about the empirical and normative dimensions of U.S. politics -- ranging from patterns of public opinion and electoral or civic participation, to the operations of governmental institutions, the impact of social movements and groups, the ideological and intellectual roots of American politics, and the causes and results of public policies. Dissertation projects in these and other areas are suitable for support. Projects that illuminate transformations in American politics are of special interest, as are dissertations that involve freshly collected evidence or unusual combinations of research methods. Awards will depend on the competitive quality of the proposed project and the excellence of the candidate's graduate record.

The Nature of the Award: Research and Completion Fellowships

CAPS offers two types of dissertation fellowships: a research fellowship and a completion fellowship. CAPS Dissertation Research Fellowships are for students in the process of doing primary research for their dissertations and CAPS Dissertation Completion Fellowships are for students in the final year of dissertation writing.

Dissertation Research and Completion Fellowships will be awarded to run from July 1, 2008 through June 30, 2009. Each full-year fellowship provides a \$21,830 stipend. The student's facilities fees for the academic year are also paid for by the Center for American Political Studies. Fellowship winners will be expected to share their work at CAPS-sponsored occasions during the award year.

Eligibility, Terms, and Conditions

Any Harvard Ph.D. candidate in Government, Economics, Sociology, History or other social science graduate programs may apply if he or she is doing a dissertation about some aspect of modern U.S. politics. Comparisons across nations are eligible if analysis of U.S. politics is a major part of the project. Projects in normative political theory are also eligible, provided that empirical patterns are a major aspect of the study. The specific guidelines for the research and completion fellowship are below.

CAPS Dissertation Research Fellowship Guidelines:

- Students must have an approved dissertation prospectus before the start of the one-year fellowship. A fellowship designee will forfeit the award if the prospectus has not been approved by July 1, 2008.
- Any student entering year G-6 or G-7 may apply **ONLY** for a completion fellowship.
- Students who apply for a research fellowship may not simultaneously apply for a completion fellowship.
- Research fellowship winners may do a small amount of teaching or outside research work to supplement their 2008-2009 stipends, but such supplementary work must be specified in the cover letter, and must not conflict with the Ph.D. research plan.

CAPS Dissertation Completion Fellowship Guidelines:

- Completion of all departmental requirements and an approved dissertation prospectus.
- Students must have two chapters in draft to be eligible to apply for a completion fellowship for the following academic year. For students in fields where the dissertation consists of three articles, the existence of one article in draft will meet this requirement.
- Dissertation completion fellowships are available as early as year G-4 and as late as year G-7 to support the writing of dissertations.
- No student may use more than one dissertation completion fellowship at Harvard. Holders of previous dissertation completion fellowships are not eligible to apply for CAPS dissertation fellowships, and students who win and use CAPS dissertation completion fellowships may not apply for any other completion fellowships at Harvard. In addition, students who have won a CAPS dissertation research fellowship may not apply for a CAPS dissertation completion fellowship.
- Ordinarily, no concurrent teaching is permitted with the dissertation completion fellowship, although exceptions are made for very light teaching duties.

Application Procedures and Schedule

Applications must be submitted by 5 p.m. on ~~Friday, February 29, 2008~~ **Wednesday, March 12, 2008** to the CAPS Center Administrator, Lilia Halpern-Smith, CGIS Knafel Building Room N429, 1737 Cambridge Street, Cambridge, MA 02138. Each application should contain one copy of the following items:

- ❑ [Graduate School of Arts and Sciences Completion and Research Fellowships Standard Application Form](#) including all required documents and letters of recommendation.
- ❑ A signed cover letter with the following information: whether the application is for a research or completion fellowship; a one-paragraph synopsis of your dissertation research; the names of two recommenders; your planned teaching responsibilities during the fellowship year; and any other information you consider pertinent.
- ❑ Written confirmation from your program graduate coordinator stating that your prospectus was approved or, if your prospectus has not been approved, the anticipated date of approval.

Please do not staple any of your application materials; however, binder and/or paper clips are permitted.

An interdisciplinary committee of faculty affiliated with the Center for American Political Studies will review all applications during the month of March. Among equally qualified applicants and projects, preference will be given to applicants who have not benefited from previous fellowship support. Decisions will be announced in ~~early~~ April.