Professional Development Seminars
The Fellowships Office offers a series of seminars, featuring guest speakers and covering some of the topics covered in individual counseling: how to write a polished fellowship proposal; how to get published, with an editor from the Harvard University Press as one of the speakers; tips for surviving the dissertation—how to choose a dissertation topic, strategies for the research stage, strategies for keeping momentum going in the writing stage and finishing in a timely fashion. The seminars are announced in the GSAS Bulletin.

Fellowship Workshops Offered On-Site for Individual Departments
GSAS students or department administrators may arrange for the Director of Fellowships to come to individual departments to offer informational fellowships seminars. This allows the discussion to be more focused on the fellowship questions and needs of particular disciplines.

Timing of Fellowship Applications
Most fellowships must be applied for approximately one year before support is needed. Many fellowship deadlines occur during the fall of the previous year. For example, Fulbright applications have an October deadline. (Fellowship tenure roughly coincides with the academic calendar.)

Plan ahead, both in terms of identifying fellowship opportunities and in thinking about the application process. To overcome the difficulty of writing a proposal so far in advance, keep in mind that a proposal is a projection of what you expect to accomplish in the future, offering sufficient reason for why your plans are promising, rather than a statement with definitive conclusions. Many students find that the summer is a good time to prepare for the application process since life slows down a bit, and since deadlines, as noted, often occur in early fall.

Fellowships Available to First-Year Graduate Students
There are several fellowships available to students who are at or near the beginning of graduate study. They normally require US citizenship or permanent residence status, and many of these have a deadline in early Fall. Application forms in most cases are online and can be downloaded. Examples are the NSF, the Hertz, and the Ford Foundation Diversity Fellowships (pre-doctoral). For details and a more complete list of early fellowships, see on the GSAS Fellowships website, “Fellowships for the first or second year of graduate study.”

Fulbrights and Other Traveling Fellowships
The Fellowships Office also administers the major Fulbright competitions; GSAS students must apply for Fulbrights through this Office. To be eligible you must be a US citizen (the Fulbright-Hays allows permanent residents, but the program may be discontinued). All eligible students who need to do research abroad should be sure to apply for a Fulbright; Harvard GSAS students have a good winning record for these highly prestigious fellowships, and they are no harder to win than internal Harvard traveling fellowships (which you may apply for as well). Be aware that deadlines occur in early October.

For full information on the GSAS application process, see “Fulbrights” on the GSAS Fellowships website.

The major internal traveling fellowships are the Kennedy, Knox, and Sheldon; the Lurcy, which supports research/study in France. Full descriptions are under “Harvard Fellowships” at the GSAS Fellowships website.

Traveling scholars will also want to be sure to make use of two special Harvard resources:

Harvard research centers devoted to area studies: Collectively, the centers play host to scholars from all over the globe. They normally offer seminars and related activities open to members of the community. Students often find they have the opportunity to meet scholars from the very countries that are their research destinations. This, in turn, can help to strengthen the fellowship application.

Harvard language departments are invaluable for the languages required for research abroad. They also provide language evaluations required by Fulbright and other traveling fellowships (even for those who have not enrolled in language study at Harvard).

Fellowships Requiring Department Nominations
Many GSAS fellowship competitions require department nomination. It is important for students to realize that the student must begin the process by applying to the department for their own nomination. Be sure to find out the department application deadline for any competition where department nomination is required and start that process. Don’t wait for someone else to anticipate your interest or need.
Introduction
The Fellowships Office provides a range of services to assist graduate students in their search for fellowship funding, as well as dealing with many issues related to professional development. The Office also administers the major GSAS fellowship competitions, working closely with the staff of the Financial Aid Office in the implementation of fellowship awards. (The Financial Aid Office provides assistance more generally with issues concerning financial aid.)

A graduate student who recently used the services of the Fellowships Office reported that they nicely complemented the specialized advice she was getting from her dissertation advisor. She found that it was helpful to get feedback from someone outside of the field, since selection committee members may come from a range of fields. The student also felt much freer to make multiple appointments to get feedback from the Fellowships Office, since this is precisely the kind of service that the Office provides.

Individual Counseling for Fellowships and Professional Development
Fellowships Director Cynthia Verba offers individual counseling as the centerpiece of fellowship and professional development services.

Fellowship advice includes: feedback on drafts of fellowship proposals, strategies for clearly articulating the significance of the fellowship project, identifying appropriate fellowship opportunities, and securing effective letters of recommendation and faculty advice.

Professional development advice concerns the following issues: defining goals at the various stages of the doctoral program and finishing the dissertation in a timely fashion, delivering papers at professional meetings, and submitting articles to journals or book manuscripts to publishers.

Preparation for a Fellowships Counselling Session
>- Prepare a draft of your proposal as early as possible. You should consult the written advice on proposal-writing and examine samples of winning fellowship proposals in the GSAS publication Scholarly Pursuits, written by Fellowships Director, Cynthia Verba. It is available to GSAS students and alumni/ae free of charge. (see Publications below for more details).
>- After receiving counseling on your proposal draft, keep polishing until it is a highly professional statement of purpose. If you wish further feedback on successive drafts, you can make additional appointments with the Fellowships Director.
>- Throughout the process, consult faculty advisors and possibly seek advice from specialists in the field outside of Harvard.
>- Attend grantsmanship workshops offered in the Professional Development Series—for dates, topics, and other information on fellowships, watch the Fellowships column in the GSAS Bulletin, mailed to all students and also available at the GSAS website under “publications.”

GSAS Fellowship Resources
The items below are available online at the GSAS Fellowships website www.gsas.harvard.edu/fellowships

- Scholarly Pursuits: A Guide to Professional Development during the Graduate Years (also available in paper version to GSAS students and alumni/ae free of charge in the Dean’s reception area, Richard A. and Susan F. Smith Campus Center, 3rd floor). This publication includes:
  - samples of winning fellowship proposals, including examples of pre-dissertation and dissertation proposals
  - samples of fellowship biographical essays
  - a discussion of the student/faculty advising relationship
  - a discussion of setting goals at the various stages of the doctoral program and proceeding through the program in a timely fashion
  - a chapter on publishing work
  - samples of curriculum vitaes, résumés, and cover letters
  - a discussion of the minority experience in the doctoral program
  - a discussion of combining personal life and professional life

- The Graduate Guide to Grants provides a comprehensive list of fellowships and grants for graduate students, with information updated on an ongoing basis. Searches can be done for the following criteria: citizenship requirements, stage of graduate study, research abroad, fellowship deadlines organized by month, and many others.

- The Harvard Guide to Postdoctoral Fellowships provides comparable information to the above for the postdoctoral level.

- Harvard Fellowships are some of the major fellowships for GSAS students, described individually at this website, accompanied by application forms or application instructions. They include: Graduate Summer Fellowships; Harvard Summer School Tuition Waivers; Graduate Society Research Term Time and Merit Fellowships; Harvard Travelling Fellowships (Kennedy, Knox and Sheldon and Lurcy, etc.); Dissertation Completion Fellowships offered by GSAS and participating Harvard Research Centers.

In addition, GSAS students apply for Fulbrights and the FLAS through GSAS. (See the individual entries under “Harvard Fellowships.”)

CONTACT US:
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resources (including publications) are available online at www.gsas.harvard.edu/fellowships