The Center for American Political Studies offers Dissertation Fellowships (Research OR Completion) on the Study of the American Republic made possible by a generous challenge grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities matched by generous Harvard University Alumni. Eligible applications must contain dissertation topics with a direct engagement with the history, principles, and politics of the American Republic. These fellowships are inclusive to students inside the field of political science as well as History, English and American Literature, Philosophy, American Civilization, Sociology, Economics, Anthropology, and others - whose presence would enrich the collective discussion of enduring political, historical and philosophical themes of the American Republic. Relevant themes include (but are not restricted to) the politics, history and philosophy of the American Founding and the Early Republic, the political philosophy of republicanism (particularly as applied to the United States), the Civil War and its legacies, the politics of slavery and abolition, and political institutions in the United States.

The Nature of the Awards
Dissertation Research/Completion Fellowships will be awarded for 2016-2017. The Center for American Political Studies (CAPS) matches its dissertation research stipend level to half of the GSAS standard annual stipend amount for dissertation completion fellowships, and are awarded in either the Fall or Spring terms, depending on the Fellow’s preference. GSAS has not yet set the amount for the 2016-2017 academic year. This award will cover “tuition” (facilities fee and health insurance) for G-5s and above, capping the tuition amount that would be paid for a G4. 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 the above-mentioned graduate programs may apply if he or she is doing a dissertation about some aspect of the American Republic. Comparisons across nations are eligible if the study of the American Republic is the major focus 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 fellowships are below.

Guidelines for the CAPS Dissertation (Research or Completion) Fellowship on the American Republic

- Completion of all departmental requirements and an approved dissertation prospectus before the start of academic year 2016-2017. A fellowship designee will forfeit the award if the prospectus has not been approved by July 1, 2016.
- 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.
- Any student entering year G-5 and below may apply for a research fellowship.
Dissertation completion fellowships are available as early as year G-4 and as late as year G-7 to support the writing of dissertations.

Students who apply for a research fellowship may not simultaneously apply to other centers for a completion fellowship. No student may use more than one dissertation completion fellowship at Harvard. Students who have previously been awarded a CAPS Dissertation Research Fellowship can apply for a CAPS Dissertation Completion Fellowship, although among equally qualified applicants and projects preference will be given to applicants who have not previously benefited from fellowships from CAPS.

Research fellowship winners may do a small amount of teaching or outside research work to supplement their 2016-2017 stipends, but such supplementary work must be specified in the cover letter, and must not conflict with the Ph.D. research plan. Ordinarily, no concurrent teaching is permitted with the dissertation completion fellowship, although exceptions are made for very light teaching duties.

Please state in your cover letter the category of funding you are requesting (Research or Completion).

Questions about these guidelines may be sent to caps@gov.harvard.edu.

Application Procedures and Schedule
Applications must be submitted by 5:00 p.m. on Friday, February 12, 2016 to CAPS, CGIS Knafel Building Room K428, 1737 Cambridge Street, Cambridge, MA 02138. A complete application includes the items listed below. CAPS needs one copy only, the original, in the following order:

- GSAS Standard Application Form (CARAT) (printed from the electronic application linked from the GSAS website).
- A signed cover letter with the following information: the category of funding requested (research or completion); 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.
- Statement of purpose (two to four pages, double spaced) clearly describing the dissertation topic’s direct engagement with the history, principles, and politics of the American Republic. There should be a brief indication of your progress to date and timetable for completion.
- A bibliography identifying major primary and secondary sources.
- Current resume, not to exceed two pages.
- Current transcript.
- Two letters of recommendation, one of which must be from the dissertation adviser. You may request recommenders send their letters directly to CAPS by the deadline, or collect the letters yourself for submission along with the rest of the application. If the latter, letters should in sealed envelopes and signed across the seal.
- Written confirmation from your graduate program 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.