

FELLOWSHIPS AND AWARDS

GRADUATE COLLEGE AND CLAS FELLOWSHIPS

Each year Ph.D. students in English win competitive scholarships and awards offered by the Graduate College and CLAS. During both the fall and spring semesters, the Graduate College holds competitions for the Post-Comprehensive Research Awards (for post-Comps students) and the Ballard and Seashore Dissertation Fellowships (for post-prospectus students). These Graduate College fellowships both provide a single funded semester of protected research time. For details about these awards, as well as other Graduate College fellowships, please visit: <https://www.grad.uiowa.edu/funding/fellowships>. In the fall, post-comprehensive students with suitable dissertation topics can also apply for the Marcus Bach Graduate Fellowship, which is offered by CLAS. This fellowship provides a single funded semester of protected research time. For details, please visit: <https://clas.uiowa.edu/students/opportunities-students>. Students may apply for dissertation fellowships either for their last funded year in the program or for the year immediately following (5th and 6th years for students entering with a prior MA; 6th and 7th years for those entering with a BA).

The GPC will send out regular email reminders of the due dates for all Graduate College and CLAS fellowships. They are also posted on their website: <https://www.grad.uiowa.edu/internal-fellowships>. Many of these fellowships are “by nomination only,” which means students must submit their application materials to the GPC, rather than sending them directly to the Graduate College or CLAS. Please note, the English department often has internal deadlines for these fellowships that are well in advance of the Graduate College and CLAS deadlines. Your complete application is due to the GPC on the English department deadline.

ENGLISH DEPARTMENT FELLOWSHIPS AND AWARDS

Early in the spring semester, the Graduate Steering Committee invites applications for the Diehl dissertation-year fellowship as well as for the five departmental research support awards and the Best Essay Prize. Although students are urged to apply in all relevant categories, winners of the Ballard and Seashore Fellowship and CLAS Dissertation Writing Fellowship are not eligible for the Diehl fellowship. All awards except for the Piper require the applicant to have completed Comprehensive Exams and the dissertation prospectus meeting by February of the awards competition year. The Piper Memorial Fellowship is open to female Ph.D. and MFA students as outlined below. Students may apply for the Diehl fellowship either for their last funded year in the program or for the year immediately following (5th and 6th year for students entering with a prior MA; 6th and 7th year for those entering with a BA).

Huston Diehl Distinguished Dissertation Fellowship

Source: The Diehl Fellowship was established in honor of University of Iowa English Department faculty member Huston Diehl (1948-2010). Huston was an influential scholar of Early Modern English literature and culture whose pedagogy inspired her colleagues and students. Thanks to the generosity of Professor Diehl and her partner, Gerald Wetlaufer, this recognition involves a research stipend for one academic year supplementing two special teaching assignments: an upper-level undergraduate English course in one semester and one section of ENGL:1200 in the other semester.

Eligibility: The recipient, to be designated “The Huston Diehl Fellow,” must be a Ph.D. student who has completed the comprehensive examination, a dissertation prospectus meeting, and all other doctoral requirements except the dissertation by the time of application. Students in any field are eligible.

Terms of the Award: This award carries with it a research stipend for one academic year supplementing two special teaching assignments: an upper-level undergraduate English course in one semester and one section of ENGL:1200 in the other semester.

Applications: Applicants should submit the following materials (**single-spaced, 12 pt. type, 1” margins, and as separate PDF files**):

- A one-page dissertation abstract.
- A two-page document containing a descriptive list of chapters and a timetable for completion of the dissertation.
- A one-page C.V. of the nominee’s educational and professional experience, honors and awards, and publications.
- A syllabus for the upper-level course the applicant proposes to teach.

Two letters of support:

- One letter from the nominee’s dissertation director that includes:
 - A description of how much work has already been accomplished on the dissertation.
 - The likelihood that the degree will be completed within one semester of receiving the award.
- One letter from a committee member or other faculty member familiar with the student’s work.

Prairie Lights/Sherman Paul, Frederick P.W. McDowell, Freda Dixon Malone, and Valerie Lagorio Dissertation Scholarships

Source: These awards are made from the proceeds of funds established through the generosity of Prairie Lights Bookstore; by the students of Professors Emeritus Frederick P.W. McDowell and Valerie Lagorio; and by the sister of Freda Dixon Malone, who received her MA in English from the University of Iowa in 1929.

Eligibility: Applicants must have completed the comprehensive examination, a dissertation prospectus meeting, and all other requirements for the Ph.D. except the dissertation at the time of application. Doctoral candidates with a concentration in contemporary (post-1950) literature and theory from any region are eligible for the Prairie Lights/Sherman Paul Award. Doctoral candidates with a concentration in British and/ or American literature from 1850 to 1950 are eligible for the McDowell Award; those with a concentration in British literature from 1500 to 1850 are eligible for the Malone Award; and those with a concentration in British literature before 1500 are eligible for the Lagorio Award. In the event that no dissertation-stage medievalist successfully applies for the Lagorio Award, one or two smaller traveling fellowships will be made to nurture medievalists in the earlier stages of their careers.

Terms of awards: These awards of approximately \$1000 each (as of 2019), subject to confirmation, are to be used to defray research costs related to the completion of the dissertation. The stipends may support travel to libraries in connection with the award-holder’s research, online computer expenses, childcare expenses, or the cost of books, computer equipment, or other materials associated with the dissertation. English forwards a nominee for these four awards to the UI Office of Student Financial Aid, which administers the award. In some cases, the award is applied directly to the recipient’s financial aid package. Please contact the Office of Student Financial Aid if you have questions regarding the distribution of the award. The awards will be made in the spring semester and will go into effect for the following twelve months. The designees will be called “The Prairie Lights/Sherman Paul Scholar,” “The Frederick P.W. McDowell Scholar,” “The Freda Dixon Malone Scholar,” and “The Valerie Lagorio Scholar” or “The Valerie Lagorio Traveling Fellow,” respectively.

Applications: Applicants should submit the following materials (**single-spaced, 12 pt. type, 1” margins, and as separate PDF files**):

- A one-page dissertation abstract.
- A two-page document containing a descriptive list of chapters and a timetable for completion of the dissertation.
- A one-page C.V. of the nominee’s educational and professional experience, honors and awards, and publications.
- A one-paragraph statement indicating how the research money will be spent.

Edwin Ford Piper Memorial Scholarship

Eligibility: The recipient must be a female graduate student enrolled full-time in the English Department during the academic year. Ph.D. students and MFA students in Nonfiction Writing may apply for this award. Each applicant must be a native-born American citizen who is currently self-supporting, must demonstrate “above

average competence in her chosen field,” and must have aspirations to help the cause of women. Although not a determining factor, financial need is a criterion for consideration.

Terms of the Award: The designee will be called “The Edwin Ford Piper Scholar.” English forwards a nominee for the Piper to the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, which administers the award. The amount of the award is \$2,000, which is distributed in two installments over the academic year. Please contact the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences if you have questions regarding the distribution of the award.

Applications: Applicants should submit the following materials (**single-spaced, 12 pt. type, 1” margins, and as separate PDF files**):

- A one-page dissertation abstract or MFA thesis description.
- A two-page document containing a descriptive list of chapters and a timetable for completion of the dissertation or MFA thesis.
- A one-page C.V. of the nominee’s educational and professional experience, honors and awards, and publications.
- A statement of the applicant’s financial need and social aspirations.

English Department Best Essay Prize

Source: In order to recognize and honor the excellent scholarly work of its graduate students, the English Department annually awards a prize for the best essay published by an English Department Ph.D. student. The amount of the prize is \$250 (as of 2019), subject to confirmation.

Eligibility: Ph.D. students who have held a successful prospectus meeting by the time of application are eligible to submit essays that have been accepted for publication or have already been published in refereed journals or collections. For the spring prize, the essay must have been accepted or published between January two years’ prior and December one year prior to the award year. Although the applicant must be at the post-prospectus stage, the essay itself may have been written earlier. Applicants are invited to resubmit the same essay, if it is still eligible, the following year. Applicants may only submit one essay per year. Previous winners are not eligible to compete a second time.

Submissions: Students should submit one copy of the essay, along with a brief cover letter stating the date of the prospectus meeting, and the course and instructor for which the essay was originally written. In the case of forthcoming essays, also include proof of acceptance and projected publication date.

Evaluation: The essays will be judged by the Graduate Steering Committee.

Dietz Poetry Essay Prize

Elizabeth Dietz (1964-2005) was a poet and professor of Renaissance Literature at Rice University. A graduate of both the Writers’ Workshop and the University of Iowa’s doctoral program in English, Elizabeth specialized in the lyric poetry of sixteenth- and seventeenth-century England and was equally interested in poetic theory and practice. She was also a gifted teacher of poetry.

Source: The Dietz Essay Prize is awarded annually, on alternating years, for the best essay on poetry written by an undergraduate and a graduate student. In honor of Elizabeth’s broad and eclectic interests, essays on all kinds of poetry—epic, lyric, narrative, dramatic, and experimental—as well as on poetics are welcome.

Submissions: Students should submit one copy of the essay, along with a brief cover letter stating the date of the prospectus meeting, and the course and instructor for which the essay was originally written. In the case of forthcoming essays, also include proof of acceptance and projected publication date.

Evaluation: The essays will be judged by the Graduate Steering Committee.

OTHER FELLOWSHIPS

The Division of Sponsored Programs also invites graduate students to utilize its resources in identifying

appropriate external grants. For more information, see <http://dsp.research.uiowa.edu>.

UI International Programs also sponsors graduate funding programs for a variety of international research & language learning opportunities. For more information, see <https://international.uiowa.edu/students> .