Early in the spring semester, the Graduate Steering Committee invites applications for the Ballard/Seashore, Seely and Diehl dissertation-year fellowships 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/Seashore Fellowships are not eligible for the Seely and Diehl Fellowships. 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 PhD and MFA students as outlined below.

Students may apply for a Seashore/Ballard, Seely, or 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).

One application, which follows the guidelines specified below, should be submitted for all of the fellowships or awards for which you wish to be considered https://english.uiowa.edu/graduate-program/graduate-webforms. The following additional materials must be submitted for specific awards:

- the Seely and Diehl Fellowships require submission of a syllabus
- the Sherman Paul/Prairie Lights, McDowell, Malone, and Lagorio Awards require submission of a one-paragraph description of how the research money will be spent
- the Piper Award (for U.S. born, self-supporting women, working on women’s issues) should include a statement of the applicant’s financial need and social aspirations

Dissertation Fellowship Application materials (single-spaced, 12 pt. type, 1” margins, and as separate PDF files)

- A one-page abstract written to be understood by people in other fields of study. The abstract should address the purpose of the research, how the research will be carried out, and the value of the research to the student's field (do not include references).
- 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.

TWO LETTERS OF SUPPORT:

- One letter from the nominee's dissertation director that includes:
  - How long the student has been working on the Ph.D.
  - Confirmation the student will have successfully completed the comprehensive examination by the nomination deadline.
  - The student’s qualifications for carrying out this research.
  - Explain how much work has already been accomplished on the dissertation.
  - The value of the research topic to the specific field.
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.

**Ballard and Seashore Dissertation Year Fellowships**

This fellowship program provides an opportunity for doctoral students to benefit from a final semester of protected and supported time to focus on completing their scholarly research activities and the writing of their dissertations. A one-time fellowship award will be given for $10,000. For more information see [http://www.grad.uiowa.edu/ballard-and-seashore-dissertation-year-fellowships](http://www.grad.uiowa.edu/ballard-and-seashore-dissertation-year-fellowships).

**Eligibility:** The applicant must be a PhD 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.

**Applications:** Applicants should submit the same materials as for other dissertation-year awards (see above) to the English Department.

**Deadline:** The internal departmental deadline is in early spring semester; please check with the DGS for details.

**Frederick F. Seely and Huston Diehl Distinguished Dissertation Fellowships**

**Source:** The Seely fellowship has been established in honor of Frederick F. Seely, who inspired his students by his example as a human being and as a professional. Above all, he was a reader who taught and who thus carried into his teaching the joy of discovery that this award seeks to perpetuate. The Diehl Fellowship has been established by the English Department in honor of Huston Diehl, a specialist in 16th- and 17th-century English literature who published widely on the theatrical, visual, and religious cultures of early modern England. A passionate and engaging teacher, Huston took great pride in her students’ accomplishments and professional careers.

**Eligibility:** The recipients, to be designated “The Frederick F. Seely Fellow” or "Huston Diehl Fellow" must be a PhD 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. The latter course can be taught by the Fellow in one of the single-evening meeting times. The amount of the award is approximately $20,000, which is distributed in ten installments over the academic year (as of 2014).
Applications: Applicants should submit the same materials as for other dissertation-year awards (see above). In addition, applicants should include a course description and syllabus for the proposed course to be taught in spring semester.

Deadline: early spring semester; check with DGS for details.

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 PhD 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 at earlier stages of their careers.

Terms of awards: These awards of approximately $1000 each (as of 2014), 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, on-line 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: In addition to the standard materials submitted for the dissertation awards (see above), applicants for the research awards should also include a one-paragraph statement indicating how the research money will be spent.

Deadline: early spring semester; check with DGS for details.

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. PhD 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. Please contact the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences if you have questions regarding the distribution of the award.

Application: In addition to the materials submitted for the other awards, applicants for the Piper Scholarship should also include in their cover letter 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 PhD student. The amount of the prize is $250 (as of 2013), subject to confirmation.

Eligibility: PhD 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.

Deadline: Early spring semester; check with DGS for details.

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.

Other Fellowships

In addition to the Dissertation Fellowships, Departmental Awards, and Best Essay Prize, students may also apply for fellowships that the Graduate College administers for international dissertation research, summer research, travel, and external grant enhancement. For more details see [http://www.grad.uiowa.edu/grants-and-fellowships](http://www.grad.uiowa.edu/grants-and-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/](http://dsp.research.uiowa.edu/)

UI International Programs also sponsors graduate funding programs for a variety of international research and language learning opportunities. For more information see [http://international.uiowa.edu/funding](http://international.uiowa.edu/funding)