

# Grants, Fellowships, and Prizes

Many graduate students apply for grants, fellowships, and awards. The DU library has an e-copy of [The Graduate School Funding Handbook](#), which you may find a useful read as you navigate this process.

Below are internal and external award types, followed by a non-exhaustive catalogue of graduate-eligible CW and LS fellowships that are organized by due date.

## DU-Internal Award Types

### CAHSS Student Research Grant

In Spring quarter, CAHSS sends out a call for applications for this grant. Five undergraduate and graduate student awards of up to \$1250 each are distributed.

### GSFF and OGE Grants

Every quarter, English department graduate students can apply for *\*reimbursement\** for conference and research-related expenses. The Graduate Student Association manages GSFF awards, and the Office of Graduate Education manages the other.

### CCESL Student Grants

The Center for Community Engaged Scholarship and Learning offers a variety of small [grants](#) and [fellowships](#) to graduate students. If you teach / volunteer with a community organization or a group of individuals in Denver (or if you'd like to), browse the CCSEL website for engagement and award opportunities.

## External Award Types

### Conference Travel Grants

Not all, but many, professional societies offer an array of graduate-student focused awards. The most common of these is in the form of travel grants. In order to be eligible for these, a student's paper must have been accepted, and the student must be registered to attend the conference. I recommend checking the website of all professional societies to which you are a member in order to find out what is available to you. I'd also recommend looking regional MLA associations (ours is [Rocky Mountain MLA](#)), which has a variety of graduate awards.

### Library and Archive Travel Grants

Libraries and archives are often associated with manuscripts and rare books, but they are also places that conserve a variety of collections: photographs, maps, newspapers, political correspondence, political campaign materials, clothing, band posters, period furniture, the list goes on. These collections are valuable to literary studies and creative writing students, alike. (If you are writing a novel that takes place in New York, for

example, a fantastic way to research the city—past and present—is to spend time in the New York Public Library special collections.)

Travel grants are divided into “short-term” (about a week) and “long-term” (up to six months). Consider applying for a short-term grant in your first years as a PhD student, possibly as you are working on your prospectus.

### Summer Seminars and Institutes

Many universities, scholar societies, and NEH-funded researchers offer week-long and month-long courses during the summer that are meant to provide graduate students and faculty with introductory and advanced-level training in language, field-specific skills, and literary and historical topics that may not be widely or regularly available at their home universities. These seminars and institutes are prestigious and competitive. While the NEH is an all-expense-paid experience for those whose applications are accepted, others, like the Rare Book School, Cornell’s Summer School of Criticism & Theory, and the Newberry’s Mellon Summer Institutes in Vernacular Paleography have need-based financial aid and/or graduate-specific fellowships.

### Graduate Paper and Essay Prizes

Many professional societies which host annual conferences have a “best paper” prize for graduate students. Generally speaking, papers must be submitted in advance of the conference and (of course) graduate students must attend and present their papers. Best paper prizes come with a small amount of money, and they look great on a CV.

Some societies and journals have “best first essay” or “best graduate essay” prizes. Sometimes, the essay must have been published previously; other times, the award is the publication of the essay. Either way, if you are a late-stage graduate student, consider submitting an essay you have published/would like to publish for consideration to one of these awards.

### Predoctoral Fellowships

There are a few fellowships out there for graduate students who are not ABD. These are the Ford Foundation Predoctoral Fellowship and the newly-launched Mellon/ACLS Dissertation Innovation Fellowship.

### Dissertation Fellowships

The Holy Grail of all graduate fellowships: these are one-year fellowships designed to provide ABD students with a full year of financial support and (often, but not always) health insurance. The major organizations who provide these fellowships are Ford, AAUW, AAS, and ASA (see below for full information). In addition, while the Fulbright and NEA are not dissertation fellowships as such, they serve as a means for graduate students to complete dissertations. A number of DU English PhD students have received these two fellowships.

### Dissertation Prizes

Some professional associations offer “best dissertation prizes.” These are submitted after the dissertation has been completed and often come with a cash award.

### ***Fellowship Databases***

The best place to start your search for an award is on professional society websites. Often, they maintain lists of external funding that are relevant to their members. Other general award databases are:

[ProFellow](#)  
[GrantForward](#)  
[N-Net Fellowships and Grants](#)  
[MLA-Profession](#)

Here is a month-by-month guide to CW and LS awards compiled by the English department faculty. It is not comprehensive, but it is another good place to start your search.

### ***August***

[American Philosophical Society John Hope Franklin Dissertation Fellowship](#) (deadline unclear –contact APS)

### ***September***

[Hodder Fellowship](#)  
[The Dorothy and Lewis B. Cullman Fellowship](#)  
[The American Academy in Berlin Prize](#)

### ***October***

[NYPL Short-Term Research Fellowships](#)  
[American Antiquarian Society Fellowships for Creative and Performing Artists and Writers](#)  
[Mellon/ACLS Dissertation Innovation Fellowships](#)  
[Medieval Academy Dissertation / Research Fellowships](#)  
[Frances E. Malamy Research Fellowship](#)

### ***November***

[Ann Plato Fellowship](#)  
[The Rome Prize](#)  
[Huntington Library Long-term, Short-term, and Travel Fellowships](#)  
[UT-Austin Harry Ransom Center Fellowships](#)  
[American Association for University Women Dissertation Fellowships](#)  
[Rare Book School Scholarships](#)  
[Fulbright U.S. Student Program](#)  
[Omohundro Institute-Folger Library Short-Term Visiting Fellowships](#)  
[Omohundro Institute Lapidus Fellowship for Graduate Research](#)  
[Florida Atlantic University Libraries and Huntington Library short-term research fellowships for advanced graduate students](#)

### ***December***

[Stadler Fellowship](#)  
[The Wallace Stegner Fellowship](#)  
[Schomburg Center Scholars-in-Residence Program](#)  
[Newberry Library Short-Term Fellowships](#)  
[Ford Foundation Predoctoral and Dissertation Fellowships](#)

### **January**

Anisfield-Wolf Fellowship in Writing & Publishing

Steinbeck Fellowship

Biography Fellowship

U Michigan Clements Library Fellowships

American Antiquarian Society Short-Term Visiting Academic Research Fellowships

American Society for Aesthetics Dissertation Fellowship

### **February**

Yale University Beincke Library Research Fellowships for Graduate Students

McNeil Center for Early American Studies Dissertation Fellowship

Filson Historical Society Fellowship

### **March**

Wisconsin Institute for Creative Writing Fellowships

Fordham-NYPL Research Fellowships in Jewish Studies

NEA Creative Writing Fellowship

### **May**

Miami Book Fair Emerging writer fellowship

### **June**

The Bard Fiction Prize

Ruth Lilly and Dorothy Sargent Rosenberg Poetry Fellowship

### **July**

Elizabeth George Fellowship