

The Neil and Ann Kerwin Doctoral Fellowship

The Neil and Ann Kerwin Doctoral Fellowship will be awarded each year to a doctoral student in the School of Public Affairs who has reached the dissertation stage in her or his graduate studies. The award seeks to support dissertation research that is deemed by the School of Public Affairs faculty and dean to be of the highest quality and likely to lead to publication in a major peer-reviewed journal or press. The award will be in the amount of \$10,000 for one year.

Eligibility is limited to SPA doctoral students who:

- have successfully completed all comprehensive examinations;
- have an approved dissertation proposal;
- are dedicated to a career in university teaching; and
- will work on the dissertation as a primary activity during the year of the award

Selection criteria:

- a superlative academic record as reflected in the student's grades in course work and comprehensive examinations.
- the likelihood that the dissertation research will produce results worthy of publication in a major refereed journal in the field or university press book
- the likelihood that the dissertation will be successfully completed within one year of the award.

By **June 26, 2020** please submit this signed page and the other components of the doctoral dissertation fellowship application to Bob Briggs (rbriggs@american.edu).

Name

Date

I understand the eligibility requirements and selection criteria for the Kerwin Fellowship at American University. I specifically understand that if selected as the recipient of the fellowship that I will work on the dissertation as a primary activity during the year of the award.

Procedure for Applying

The application must consist of the following five components:

- 1) Signed application page
- 2) An unofficial transcript of academic work done at American University
- 3) A letter of recommendation sent from the Dissertation Chair directly to Bob Briggs
- 4) A brief letter addressing your eligibility for the Kerwin Fellowship
- 5) A proposal including:
 - a copy of the title page of the accepted dissertation proposal (with appropriate signatures)
 - a one page abstract of the proposed research
 - a summary of the proposed research, limited to six double-spaced pages, covering:
 - Background – a concise description of the issue or problem to be investigated, and its significance
 - Goals and Objectives – including research question(s) and/or hypotheses
 - Methodology
 - Timetable for completion
 - a curriculum vitae (limited to two pages) emphasizing professional and scholarly achievements related to the dissertation topic and field of study

The above material should be submitted to Bob Briggs (rbriggs@american.edu) by the announced deadline. Late applications will not be considered.

Selection Criteria

Quality of the Proposed Research (about 60%)

The Committee will evaluate the following:

- Significance of the research
- Quality of the research proposal: Is it well-formulated? Does it demonstrate adequate knowledge of related research?
- Clarity of methodology: Does it reflect knowledge of appropriate research techniques?
- Quality of the presentation: Is the presentation comprehensible to a committee member whose background is in another research area?
- Recognition of the limitations of the proposed research

Quality of Graduate Performance and Potential (about 30%)

The committee will evaluate the curriculum vitae, recommendation from the Dissertation Chair, and applicant's academic record.

Feasibility of Completion (about 10%)

The Committee will evaluate the feasibility of the Dissertation being completed, and the degree awarded by the end of the funding period.

Notification of Award

All applicants will be notified of decisions by the end of July.