



March 1, 2022

Dear Sirvan,

We are delighted to inform you of your admission in the Political Science, PhD program at the University of Pennsylvania and to offer you a Benjamin Franklin Fellowship that will cover 5 years of graduate training. You have been admitted based on your outstanding academic record and our belief in your potential for high achievement as a doctoral student at Penn and in your future career.

The Fellowship provides a base stipend paid over ten months during the academic year. Last year that stipend was \$32,255, and we expect a modest increase in 2022-23. The amount of the base stipend for subsequent years during the award period will be adjusted annually. In addition, during your first three years as a Penn student, we are happy to provide summer fellowship support. Last year's summer rate was \$5,083, and we expect a modest increase in the amount for the coming year. (More detailed information about summer fellowships is provided at the end of this letter).

The School of Arts and Sciences (SAS) will also cover your tuition and general fees over the course of the five-year award. To give you some idea of the value of this aspect of the Fellowship, full tuition and the general fee for the academic year 2021-22 amounted to \$42,284. Furthermore, SAS will provide you with health insurance through Penn Student Insurance Plan at no cost to you for the duration of your fellowship if you are not already covered under family or spousal plans. Your PSIP coverage for each year begins on August 1 and ends on July 31. The PSIP premium in 2021-22 was \$3,874.\*

Adding all these benefits together, we anticipate that the total value of your fellowship package in 2022-23 will be at least \$85,000. Over five years, the value of Penn's support for your doctoral education will be over \$425,000 dollars. Such a substantial investment in your future comes with high expectations. This package of support is intended to enable you to complete all requirements for the Ph.D. degree within the five-year award period of your fellowship. Please note that continuation of the Benjamin Franklin Fellowship from term to term is contingent upon your satisfactory academic performance and progress. This entails not only completing and passing courses on schedule, but also satisfying all requirements of your program and working at a level that continues to confirm the Graduate Group's expectation that you will successfully earn your Ph.D. in a timely fashion. The Graduate Group in Political Science may determine whether you are fulfilling its expectations through periodic reviews of your performance, and you must meet certain formal requirements at a specific junctures in your academic career.

The Benjamin Franklin Fellowship requires two years of service in an assistantship conducive to your professional development as a teacher or researcher. The Political Science Graduate Group requires a minimum of 4 semesters of teaching experience for the Ph.D. Most Benjamin Franklin Fellows teach in both the second and third years, with the first, fourth and fifth years free of service so you can focus on your coursework and dissertation, respectively. Benjamin Franklin Fellows are expected to take at least three course units per term until the course requirements for the Ph.D. have been met. Your graduate group chair will inform you more fully about requirements and how graduate student teaching is mentored and evaluated in Political Science.

You must be in residence during the first year of your fellowship. You are expected to be in residence each academic year that follows while classes are in session during the entire period of your fellowship unless your graduate chair agrees to your working elsewhere for a specified period. "In residence" means that you live close enough to Penn to participate readily and consistently in the intellectual life of your graduate group and particularly in activities that your group requires, such as classes, laboratories, teaching obligations, meeting with advisors, workshops, and colloquia.

We intend the Benjamin Franklin Fellowship to facilitate your steady and timely progress toward completion of the Ph.D. degree by enabling you to engage in full-time study. The School of Arts and Sciences therefore discourages and strictly limits compensated employment while students are supported by fellowships. In addition, so that we can use our scarce resources to make a Penn Ph.D education accessible to as many students as possible, you must inform us of any additional fellowships that you receive from an external source. Please telephone or email one of us, and we will arrange to integrate the Benjamin Franklin Fellowship and the external award. More detailed explanations about SAS policies concerning employment and multiple fellowships are provided at the end of this letter. Please make sure to read these policies carefully.

This letter serves as your official notification of admission. However, you will have to submit evidence that you have received a baccalaureate degree or equivalent before you can matriculate. If you accept, you must complete the enrollment form on-line by accessing your application.

We are pleased that you are considering graduate study at the University of Pennsylvania and strongly hope that you will accept this fellowship offer. We look forward to your reply. Penn adheres to the [agreement among graduate schools](#) that allows you until April 15 to make a decision. However, we would greatly appreciate an earlier decision if possible. We sincerely hope to have the pleasure of welcoming you to the Graduate Division of the School of Arts and Sciences. Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Beth S. Wenger". The signature is written in dark ink and is located at the bottom left of the page.

✓  
Beth Wenger  
Associate Dean of Graduate Studies  
Moritz and Josephine Berg Professor of History



Graduate Group Chairperson  
Political Science

\* Please note that the health insurance policy will cover only you as an individual. If a spouse/partner or child (ren) will be accompanying you to Philadelphia, you may purchase coverage for them through the Penn Student Insurance Plan, but the cost of that coverage is not included in your financial aid. In 2021-22, the extra charges begin at \$3,874 for one dependent and increase for additional dependents. The rates tend to rise every year. It is especially important to plan for these costs if you are an international student, because a spouse/partner with an F2 visa will not be eligible to work in the U.S. and children who are not U.S. citizens do not qualify for health benefits funded by federal or state governments in the U.S.

## Policies Concerning SAS - Funded Fellowships for Ph.D. Students

### A. SUMMER FELLOWSHIPS

1. Summer funding is disbursed in the 1st, 2nd and 3rd years.
2. To receive any payment in a summer month, a student must remain in good academic standing as determined by his or her graduate group and by the Graduate Division.

### B. EMPLOYMENT

1. Because SAS fellowships are intended to enable the recipient to work full-time toward the Ph.D., a student is not permitted to accept employment in any month in which he or she receives a fellowship stipend if that employment is not compatible with continued progress toward the degree at a full-time rate.
2. As a general rule, students on fellowship may accept employment that requires less than ten hours of work per week (e.g., as a grader, tutor, or hourly research assistant). Employment requiring ten hours or more per week is normally prohibited. Any exceptions must be approved by both the Graduate Chair and the Associate Dean for Graduate Studies.
3. To help enforce these restrictions and to promote a more egalitarian distribution of funding opportunities, monthly payments from all University sources to students on fellowship may not

exceed 130% of the student's stipend.

4. SAS imposes no restrictions on employment hours or payments during months when a student does not receive a fellowship stipend.

### C. EXTERNAL FELLOWSHIPS

1. SAS encourages all Ph.D. students in the School to apply for and accept desirable funding opportunities from external sources. ("External" here means paid by entities outside the University or by sources inside the University other than the School.) Among the advantages that can result from such efforts are experience in seeking grants and fellowships that will be invaluable later in one's career, prestige from winning against competition that gives one a boost on the job market, and the possibility of financial benefits beyond those already conferred by the SAS fellowship.

2. External fellowships won by funded students also can enable the School to use its own limited resources to assist additional students. Holders of SAS fellowships are therefore required to report any external fellowships and grants to the Graduate Chair and the Associate Dean so that benefits from the multiple sources can be coordinated.

3. As an incentive to students to pursue external opportunities, it is the policy of the Graduate Division that no SAS-funded student should be made worse off by accepting an external award and if possible the student should be rewarded materially as well as in prestige. Depending on the terms of the external award and the plan for coordinating benefits, such rewards might include a higher stipend or funds for travel and other research expenses. Alternatively, it is also possible for a student who receives an external fellowship to request approval from the Graduate Chair and the Associate Dean for Graduate Studies for deferral of SAS support until a later year. Such an arrangement can, for example, convert a five-year fellowship into a six-year package. However, extensions of this sort will be approved only if the external funding is sufficient to cover the costs of an SAS fellowship, and if the nature of the student's program and research project make a longer time to degree educationally necessary and justified.