

THE CHARLOTTE W. NEWCOMBE FOUNDATION

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Newcombe Fellowship Policy

The Newcombe Awards

Since 2021, Newcombe Fellows have received \$30,000 for 12 months of full-time dissertation writing. (No half-year or partial awards are allowed.) For the 2022-23 selection cycle, 21 non-renewable fellowships will be awarded in the spring of 2022. Graduate schools will be asked to waive tuition and fees while maintaining health insurance for Newcombe Fellows.

Eligible Candidates

Applicants for the Charlotte W. Newcombe Doctoral Dissertation Fellowship must be candidates for Ph.D. or Th.D. degrees in any field of study in the humanities and social sciences at accredited graduate schools in the United States. Applicants with D.Min., law, Psy.D. and other professional degrees are not eligible. Applicants who have received a similar national award for dissertation writing, such as an AAUW, Ford, NAEd/Spencer, Mellon/ACLS, or Mellon-CES fellowship, are not eligible.

Proposals

The Newcombe Fellowship is a dissertation completion fellowship, intended for the final phase of dissertation writing. Candidates must have completed all pre-dissertation requirements, including approval of the dissertation proposal. Fieldwork or other research must be substantially complete and writing begun by the time of the award. Typically, applicants will have begun writing before the start of the fellowship year, with one or more chapters in draft, but with a substantial portion of the dissertation incomplete and requiring an additional academic year's commitment to the project. Candidates will ideally expect to complete and defend their dissertation before August of the fellowship year. Recognizing, however, that various factors may affect a Fellow's defense/graduation timeline, the Newcombe Fellowship allows leeway of up to one academic year after the academic year for which the fellowship is granted. For instance, a Newcombe Fellow who receives the fellowship in the spring of 2022 will hold the fellowship in the academic year 2022-23 and will ideally have completed and defended the dissertation by August of 2023. If the Fellow's circumstances make this timeline impractical, they will complete and defend the dissertation by the end of the academic year 2023-2024. Funds are awarded for the Fellowship year only and should be expended in that year; there will be no additional Newcombe funding to support additional time.

Conditions

Newcombe Fellows may not accept other awards which provide similar benefits, including fellowships such as the AAUW, Ford, NAEd/Spencer, Mellon/ACLS, or Mellon-CES fellowship. In rare cases, with the written permission of the director of the Newcombe Fellowship program, the Newcombe award may be combined with another award that offers some benefit uniquely significant to the Fellow's project (for instance, access to international archives), provided that the funding associated with the award in question does not exceed 75% of Newcombe Fellowship funding. The Newcombe Fellowship may be supplemented by funding associated with additional local/institutional awards, however no combination of additional awards may exceed 75% of the Newcombe stipend. Any supplemental funding must receive the written permission of the program director.

The Newcombe Fellowship is intended to support doctoral students as they devote full-time effort to supplementary research activities and dissertation writing. With the understanding, however, that teaching, writing, research assistantships, or other paid work may support the development of a well-rounded curriculum vitae, Fellows may undertake up to 12 hours per week of paid work during their tenure of the Fellowship. Any such work must be in an area related to a Fellow's field and/or specific to the Fellow's doctoral research and career preparation (including teaching, research assistant positions, editorial work for a journal, etc.). The director of the program must provide written authorization for any such work. Permission to work beyond the 12 hours per week limit or to work in an area not related to the Fellow's academic field must be authorized by the program director.

Re-application

Understanding that dissertation completion timelines may change or extend for various reasons, the Charlotte W. Newcombe Foundation and the Institute for Citizens & Scholars have revised their previous re-application policy. Prior applicants who did not receive the award when they first applied may now reapply if their revised timeline meets Newcombe Fellowship guidelines for completion and defense. Applicants who have already received funding from another national award for dissertation writing may not apply.