



# Department of French

Grants & Fellowships Workshop

Fall 2021



# Why apply for a grant/fellowship?

- To extend the life of your dissertation funding package
- To cover travel to archives/for fieldwork. GSAS will usually 'top off' an external fellowship
- Applying helps you to define and present your project
- Grants and fellowships are important to building your cv



# What should I apply for? How can I find out about opportunities?

- There are many kinds of grants and fellowship, including small/collective project grants. Building from smaller to major grants is a good strategy
- Many grants are available from sources at Columbia
- Identifying relevant opportunities means taking the time to do research: set aside a few hours to make a list of grants to apply for now & in the future.
- It may be too early for you to successfully present a project. That's fine -- but consider when you will be ready to apply and how this timing will fit into your program
- Use our collaborative document as a point of departure:

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1fFS3m8GytU7sBj3xhGpMQW6Zjhqm7zFIE9RiiAv6XBI/edit>

- Subscribe to listservs such as H-France, Francofil



# General Advice

- Plan as far in advance as you can (!)
- Apply for several fellowships/grants at once -  
- success is always somewhat arbitrary and  
faculty don't mind sending similar letters of  
recommendation to multiple sources
- If at first you don't succeed.... try again (with  
a revised version)
- Read the guidelines carefully to make sure  
you are eligible
- Most websites of funders provide lists of  
current/past winners & their projects
- Non-US citizens are unfortunately at a  
disadvantage. Look for funding targeted to  
students from your country/region
- Get feedback on your application materials  
from your advisers and the DGS



# General writing advice

- Be as clear as possible. Avoid/explain specialized terminology. Remember that you are likely communicating with people outside your field
- Make your project stand out. Explain how it is original & distinctive.
- Explain the stakes of your research
- Show why you need the award and exactly how you will use the resources/time