Department of French

Grants & Fellowships Workshop

2022-2023

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: Grand and Fellowship Listing

- 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 you 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