

Call for Applications 2026–2027

Graduate Fellowship in Uncertainty and AI within the Center for Humanistic Inquiry into Uncertainty and AI

Deadline: Friday, March 27, 2026, 5pm CST

The Center for Humanistic Inquiry into Uncertainty and AI, an autonomous research center administratively housed within the Institute for Research in the Humanities, is pleased to announce its first annual competition for ONE two-semester Graduate Student Fellowship for UW–Madison graduate students who are working on a project that explores the idea of “Uncertainty and AI” from a humanistic (or descriptive social-scientific) perspective. This fellowship will be granted for the 2026–2027 academic year. The Graduate Fellow will receive their regular salary, in place of their usual TA/PA/GA position, so that they may undertake full-time research, participate in the Center’s intellectual community (including weekly meetings with the other fellows), collaborate on the publication and dissemination of the Center’s annual whitepaper, and contribute to the Center’s other activities.

Center’s mission statement: The Center for Humanistic Inquiry into Uncertainty and AI serves as a collaborative hub for gathering people, ideas, and resources across the UW–Madison community in order to intervene in scholarly and public debates around the uncertainty foregrounded by emerging AI technologies. By fostering a broad-minded, yet focused, community of humanities scholars researching AI and providing them with the dedicated time, research support, and other resources they need to produce impactful academic publications and public-facing resources, the Center seeks to engage in urgent conversations with (1) researchers and technologists working on AI and related technologies, (2) scholars grappling with technological shifts more broadly, and (3) the broader public.

Thanks to the generous support of the National Endowment for the Humanities and institutional support from the College of Letters & Science, the Institute for Research in the Humanities, the Office of the Vice Chancellor for Research, the Graduate School, the Data Science Institute, the Center for the Humanities, and the Vice Provost for Teaching and Learning, this fellowship provides a two-semester stipend (\$30,614), plus tuition remission, segregated fees, and graduate student health insurance benefits. Shared office space will be provided. Graduate Fellows are expected to participate fully in the intellectual life of the Center by attending the weekly meetings and by working from their office space during the semester(s) that they are funded. These are prestigious appointments and represent one of the ways that UW–Madison seeks to strengthen opportunities for concentrated humanities research on the questions of AI and its uncertain future.

Eligibility

The fellowship is open to Ph.D. students in the humanities or in humanistically-oriented social sciences; candidates may be from any college or school at UW–Madison. The Graduate Fellowship may not be combined with another major fellowship (e.g., ACLS fellowships, departmental awards), 33–50% project or teaching assistantship, or significant hourly position (over 20 hours/week) during the semesters the fellow is receiving their stipend from the Center. The fellowship may not be deferred.

*****Applicants must have dissertation proposals accepted before applying to this fellowship.*****

Criteria for selection:

- The quality and potential impact of the applicant’s current and proposed research.
- The clarity of the applicant’s research proposal.
- The relevance of the applicant’s research and expertise toward the theme of “Uncertainty and AI” and to the work of current faculty fellows.
- The diversity of intellectual and disciplinary perspectives, experiences and interests the applicant would bring to the Center’s research mission.
- Evidence of interest in, and preparedness for, interdisciplinary collaboration.
- Projects should be situated clearly within the humanities: disciplinary and interdisciplinary scholarship on history, literature, visual and performing art, visual and material culture, philosophy, religion, politics, and language. In addition, we will consider applications from the humanistic social sciences if they demonstrate potential for comparative, theoretical, and/or interdisciplinary conversation with the humanities. Proposals in the performing and creative arts are not generally supported, unless they show a substantive research component in the humanities.

Application Materials

Students should directly submit their applications by email to the Center. Please include:

- A project/dissertation proposal (Up to 1,200 words or 4 double-spaced pages). The proposal should include a clear description of the project, its methods and its significance, a chapter outline, a summary of work accomplished to date, and a plan of work to be undertaken during the fellowship term.
- Project bibliography. Publications relevant to the project, up to 2 pages.
- Brief statement of interest (300 words) in interdisciplinary and collaborative research and the envisioned benefits the Center will bring to your work and that of others.
- Curriculum Vitae. Including work forthcoming and in progress.
- UW–Madison transcript.
- Departmental letter. Short letter from the graduate coordinator or DGS that confirms good standing and when the dissertation proposal was/will be defended.

- Letter of recommendation (1 page) from the student's dissertation director or advisor that addresses the significance and feasibility of the proposed research, quality of the proposal, qualifications for the project, past work, and potential contributions to, and benefits from being at, the Center.

Application Submission Details:

1. Request a 1-page recommendation letter from your dissertation director/advisor. Your advisor should send the letter directly to the Center Director coordinating the fellowship application. Please request that they title the letter as follows: ApplicantLastName_ApplicantFirstName_REFERENCE. They should email the letter to the Center's Director Jeremy Morris. (jwmorris2@wisc.edu) before the deadline: 5pm Friday, March 27, 2026
2. Collect and prepare the following documents: (a) 1,200-word dissertation proposal, (b) two-page dissertation bibliography, (c) brief statement of interest, (d) curriculum vitae, (e) copy of unofficial graduate transcript, (f) departmental letter of recommendation.
3. Combine items (a)–(f) into a single PDF and title it as follows: ApplicantLastName_ApplicantFirstName.pdf. Submit the complete application via email to the Center's Director, Jeremy Morris (jwmorris2@wisc.edu), before the deadline: 5pm Friday, March 27, 2026.

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Inquiries

For substantive questions about projects and proposals, contact Jeremy Morris, Faculty Director of the Center for Humanistic Inquiry into Uncertainty and AI (jwmorris2@wisc.edu). Notifications of awards will be emailed no later than April 10, 2026.