



June 29, 2026

Birutė Ciplijauskaitė Fellowship in Peninsular Spanish Literature and Culture

**Call for Applications: 2027-2028 academic year
Deadline: Thursday, October 22, 2026**

Access application information and link to digital application on the IRH fellowships webpage: <https://irh.wisc.edu/irh-fellowships/> (scroll down to "external fellowships").

The Institute for Research in the Humanities (IRH) at the University of Wisconsin–Madison is pleased to announce that it will offer one Birutė Ciplijauskaitė Fellowship for the 2027–2028 academic year, to be awarded to a scholar from outside the University of Wisconsin–Madison. Thanks to a generous bequest by the late Birutė Ciplijauskaitė, John Bascom Professor Emerita in the Department of Spanish & Portuguese and a Senior Fellow of IRH, the fellowship is available to a scholar with a PhD (at any stage of career), working in Spanish literary and cultural studies of the Iberian Peninsula. We are especially interested in scholars working on peninsular Spanish poetry. The Ciplijauskaitė Fellowship does not typically support editions, anthologies, or translations. Proposals in the performing and creative arts, including works of fiction, are not generally supported, but such projects with a substantive research component in the humanities may be considered. Contact the IRH Director if you have questions about the definition of "substantive research" as it relates to your project.

All IRH fellowships are residential. Ciplijauskaitė Fellows are *required* to live in Madison, Wisconsin, throughout the academic year to ensure their active participation in the intellectual and social life at IRH.

The Ciplijauskaitė Fellowship provides a stipend of \$60,000, plus health benefits (if accepting the award through UW–Madison payroll), office space, limited support services, and access to university facilities (libraries). Fellows may extend their residency through the following summer on a non-stipendiary basis. However, the fellowship may not be deferred for any reason. The fellow is expected to participate in the intellectual life of IRH by attending the weekly Monday seminar (3:30 – 5:00 pm), utilizing their campus office Monday – Friday, and giving a seminar presentation at IRH. Fellows are also encouraged to join weekly afternoon teas and other IRH events as time and interest permit. Please consult the IRH website for more information about other fellowships and activities.

Ciplijauskaitė Fellowship awardees may elect to have their award stipends transferred to their home university's payroll system if the institution is located in the United States. None of this stipend is to be used for indirect costs but is to be used only to continue the fellow's salary and benefits for the academic year of the award. If the stipend is transferred, the home institution will be responsible for ensuring any institutional payroll taxes or other encumbrances due on the award amount are paid and for continuing the fellow's fringe benefits for the academic year. If the fellow leaves their 9-month fellowship early, the home institution may be responsible for refunding a corresponding portion of the award to the IRH.

Eligibility

- IRH encourages applications from senior scholars as well as junior scholars with research projects that are well advanced.
- Faculty members of the University of Wisconsin–Madison are *not* eligible for this fellowship.
- Independent scholars are eligible to apply.
- Spoken and written English proficiency is required.
- Applicants must be in possession of their doctorate **at the time of application (latest conferral date accepted: 10/22/26)**. We will not accept applications from graduate students who anticipate having a doctorate by the beginning of the 2027–2028 academic year or who have defended but not submitted their dissertations.
- Scholars who have previously held an external fellowship at IRH (Kingdon, Solmsen, or Ciplijauskaitė) are eligible to apply after ten years from the end date of their prior IRH fellowship (fellows from the 2017–2018 academic year may apply for 2027–2028 fellowships).
- International scholars (non-U.S. citizens or permanent residents) applying must be eligible for a J-1 Visa so that they may serve their fellowship term in Madison, WI.

Application Materials to Prepare

- Project Proposal. Up to 1,500 words (about 5 double-spaced pages of 12-point font). **Proposals for this fellowship are assessed by scholars working in a variety of humanistic fields. As such, the proposal should be written jargon-free and in an accessible manner.** Address the significance of the project for an interdisciplinary humanities audience who may not be familiar with your discipline. Clearly state the intended product of your research, whether it is a book or an article (or a series of articles). For book projects, an outline of chapters is highly recommended. The proposal should also state how the project will be accomplished, and the specific work plan for the period of the fellowship. Projects to revise doctoral dissertations should involve substantial expansion, new research, and/or new conceptual frameworks— the proposal should clearly explain how the project relates to the submitted dissertation yet will be a different book.
- Project Bibliography. Publications (not your own) relevant to the project, up to 2 pages.

- Curriculum Vitae. Including work forthcoming and in progress.
- Two letters of recommendation. Each must address the significance and feasibility of the proposed research, quality of the proposal, qualifications for the project, and past work. Letters must be submitted online via Interfolio; IRH will not accept letters emailed to staff members. Letters from current departmental colleagues are strongly discouraged. Successful applications from more senior scholars tend *not* to have letters from the applicant's degree-granting institution (e.g., dissertation advisor).
- Completed Ciplijauskaitė Interfolio Application. Note: required entries in the Interfolio application "form" will include a reduced 100-word project abstract (separate from your uploaded project proposal); please prepare this shortened abstract before beginning the Interfolio application. Abstracts over 100 words will be cut off in review materials sent to the selection committee.

Application Submission

- Applicants must access the online application through Interfolio. The Interfolio application link is found in the Ciplijauskaitė Fellowship section of the IRH fellowships webpage: <https://irh.wisc.edu/irh-fellowships/> (scroll down to the expandable "external fellowships" menu).
- You must complete your online application and upload all required materials to Interfolio by **11:59 pm Eastern Time on Thursday, October 22, 2026** (recommendation letters must also be uploaded by your recommenders by 11:59 ET pm 10/22/26). Note that Interfolio operates out of Washington, D.C. and deadlines are set at Eastern Time, **NOT** Madison's Central Time. Please check the time zone of the computer you are using if submitting last-minute.
- You do not need to complete your application in a single session. You may start it, save changes, log out, and return to it later. (To see your saved applications, go to the Interfolio dashboard and click the "Deliveries" button; un-submitted applications will appear as "in-progress.")
- You *can* submit your application early while letters of recommendation are still pending (in fact, we encourage you to do so). Letters of recommendation can be submitted even after you submit your portion, but your recommenders must upload their letters to Interfolio by the deadline (11:59 pm ET) or they will not be attached to your application packet.
- Please press the "**submit**" button on your portion of the application as soon as possible. Even after submission, you may return to an application repeatedly to make edits and changes until 11:59 pm ET on October 22nd. (Again, to see an application you have already submitted, go to the Interfolio dashboard and click the "Deliveries" button; submitted applications will appear as "sent deliveries.")
- **The selection committee will not see, review, or read any submitted materials until October 23rd.**

Letters of Recommendation

- Applications require **two** letters of recommendation.

- To identify your letter writers and request letters of recommendation from them within the Interfolio system: Open the application page. Find the category "*Confidential Letter of Recommendation or Evaluation*" and click the "Add File" button on the far right. On the next screen, select the tab labeled "**Request a Recommendation**," then click the "**Request**" button. On the following screen, enter the first and last name of the recommender along with their email address. Click the "Send Request" button to complete the process.
- Interfolio will then contact the two recommenders directly with instructions on how to submit your letters. Please do this early so that Interfolio has time to contact your writers and so that your letter writers have time to review Interfolio's submission instructions. Letters must be submitted through Interfolio; **letters emailed directly to IRH will not be accepted.**
- The deadline for letter writers to submit letters is also **11:59 pm ET** on Thursday, **October 22, 2026**. Letters submitted after midnight will not be attached to your application. IRH does not send reminder emails to letter writers and does not check for missing letters close to the application deadline. Check Interfolio early and often to make sure your letters are submitted ahead of the deadline.

Deadlines

- Application materials submitted through Interfolio (by applicant): 11:59PM ET, **Thursday, October 22, 2026.**
- Letters of recommendation uploaded to Interfolio (by recommenders): 11:59PM ET, **Thursday, October 22, 2026.**
- Notifications from IRH: **Late February 2027.**

Inquiries

- For substantive questions about projects and proposals, contact Susan Ridgely, IRH Interim Director for 2026-27 (susan.ridgely@wisc.edu).
- For all other questions about this fellowship and the application process, contact Katie Apsey, IRH Associate Director (apsey@wisc.edu; 608-262-3855).
- For help using Interfolio, please contact Interfolio's help desk (help@interfolio.com; 877-997-8807).