July 1, 2026

Birutė Ciplijauskaitė Dissertation Fellowship in Peninsular Spanish Literature and Culture

Call for Nominations 2027-2028
DEADLINE: Friday, February 26, 2027

The Institute for Research in the Humanities (IRH) at the University of Wisconsin–Madison is pleased to announce it will be offering one Birutė Ciplijauskaitė Dissertation Fellowship in Peninsular Spanish literary and cultural studies for the 2027-2028 academic year. Made possible by the late Birutė Ciplijauskaitė, John Bascom Professor Emerita in the Department of Spanish & Portuguese and a Senior Fellow of the IRH, the fellowship is for an outstanding graduate student in an advanced stage of writing a dissertation supervised by a faculty member in the Department of Spanish & Portuguese at the University of Wisconsin–Madison. **Application is by departmental nomination only.** One fellowship is typically awarded each year. The deadline for departmental submission of the nomination to the IRH is **Friday, February 26, 2027**. Awards will be announced by the end of March 2027. The Department of Spanish & Portuguese will create its own internal deadline; interested students should inquire with the Department for further information.

The Birutė Ciplijauskaitė Dissertation Fellowship provides a one-semester stipend ($15,500), plus tuition remission, segregated fees, and graduate student health insurance benefits. Shared office space will be provided, as well as printing, scanning, and photocopying privileges. Dissertation fellows are required to be in residence in Madison during the semester of their fellowship and expected to participate in the intellectual life of IRH by attending the weekly Monday afternoon seminar (3:30 – 5:00 pm) and by working from their office space during the semester that they are funded. Dissertation fellows may continue their association with the IRH throughout the academic year of their fellowship regardless of the semester chosen for the award stipend/tuition remission/health insurance. Dissertation fellows are also encouraged to join the informal lunches at the IRH, weekly afternoon teas, writing groups, and various other IRH events throughout the year. Schedule permitting, dissertation fellows are given the option to present at a Monday Seminar and garner feedback from the IRH community.

Nominees must have had their dissertation proposals accepted and should have written at least one chapter of the dissertation before applying.

The Department of Spanish & Portuguese will select a nominee and send the required materials to the IRH for final approval by Friday, February 26, 2027. The Department may

nominate the same candidate for the Birutė Ciplijauskaitė and Dana-Allen Fellowships at the IRH or choose a different candidate for each fellowship competition.

Fellows may combine the Birutė Ciplijauskaitė Dissertation Fellowship with another semester of support within an academic year, but the Ciplijauskaitė Dissertation Fellowship may **not** be combined with another major fellowship (e.g., ACLS Dissertation Completion Fellowship, departmental awards), 33-50% project or teaching assistantship, or significant hourly position (over 15 hours/week) during the semester that the fellow is receiving their Ciplijauskaitė stipend from the IRH. The Birutė Ciplijauskaitė Dissertation Fellowship may not be deferred until a later date.

Birutė Ciplijauskaitė was a lifetime Senior Fellow at the Institute for Research in the Humanities from 1974 until her retirement in 1997. Professor Ciplijauskaitė was a prolific researcher, writing twelve books and penning over one hundred articles throughout her career. Internationally renowned and with a vast scholarly production betokening a breathtakingly wide-ranging expertise, Professor Ciplijauskaitė was one of UW-Madison's most distinguished and prolific members of the Department of Spanish & Portuguese.

Consistently engaged with the IRH community, even following her retirement, her tireless efforts to bring international visibility to the valuable archival materials in UW-Madison Libraries Special Collections led to her being awarded the Governor's Archival Advocacy Award in 2015. She worked assiduously to transcribe and translate invaluable papers donated to the library by UW-Madison's distinguished professor of modern European history George L. Mosse, containing the correspondence and unpublished memoir of Professor Mosse's great-aunt Martha Mosse, a survivor of the Theresienstadt concentration camp. The creation of this fellowship fund is intimately tied to the vast collection of papers, poetry, and other materials related to the 20th-century Spanish poetry she donated to Special Collections.

Nomination Materials

The nomination materials should be submitted to the IRH via email by the nominating department (*not* the student) and should compile the following items:

- Completed Ciplijauskaitė Nomination Form. This PDF form is available on the IRH website. The form is found in the "UW-Madison Dissertation Fellowships" section of the IRH fellowships webpage: https://irh.wisc.edu/irh-fellowships/ (scroll down to the expandable "internal fellowships" menu). Note that this application form requires a short 100-word dissertation *abstract* that is different from the required dissertation *proposal*.
- Project/dissertation proposal. Up to 1,500 words (about 5 double-spaced pages of 12-point font). The proposal should include a description of the project 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.
- Dissertation bibliography. Scholarship relevant to the project (up to 2 pages).
- *Curriculum Vitae*. Including work forthcoming and in progress.

- Letter of recommendation. From the student's dissertation director or advisor, which should address 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 a fellow at the IRH.

Nomination Submission

1) **For the student**:
   - Request a recommendation letter from your dissertation director/advisor well before your department's application deadline. Your advisor should send the recommendation letter directly to the department administrator or faculty member coordinating Ciplijauskaitė applications.
   - Carefully complete the Ciplijauskaitė Nomination Form (make sure you have the proper departmental contacts listed and that your dissertation abstract is capped at *100 words*).
   - Collect and prepare the following documents: 1) 1,500-word dissertation proposal, 2) two-page dissertation bibliography, 3) CV.
   - Combine the nomination form and the four items above into a single PDF and submit it to your department by its internal due date. (Note: your department may require additional materials. Check with your chair, DGS, and/or administrator.) The file should be named in the following format:
     Ciplijauskaite.2027-2028.ApplicantLastName.ApplicantFirstName.pdf
2) **For the department chair/administrator/DGS**:
   - Once the department has selected the candidate that it would like to forward to the IRH for consideration, it should combine the selected nominee's application packet pdf (see above) with the advisor's letter of recommendation. Save this as a single pdf file named in the following format:
     Ciplijauskaite.2027-2028.NomineeLastName.NomineeFirstName.pdf
   - Send the pdf file to Susan Ridgely (susan.ridgely@wisc.edu) and Katie Apsey (apsey@wisc.edu) by Friday, February 26, 2027. Use the following subject line: "Ciplijauskaitė Dissertation Fellowship Nomination, 2027-2028, [Nominee Name]"
   - Note: *Please communicate across the department regarding the nomination. Inform all parties (chairs, director of graduate studies, graduate coordinators, administrators, and the student's advisor/dissertation director) of the nomination to assure proper award distribution. The IRH will inform nominated candidates and the department of their acceptance before late March 2027.*

Deadline

- Deadline for nomination submission to department (by applicant): Determined by the Department of Spanish & Portuguese; check with the department chair/administrator for the internal deadline, required application materials, and application process.
- Deadline for nomination submission to IRH (by department chair, administrator, or DGS): **Friday, February 26, 2027.**

Inquiries

- For substantive questions about projects and proposals, contact the IRH Interim Director for 2026-27, Susan Ridgely (susan.ridgely@wisc.edu).
- For all other questions about this fellowship, contact Katie Apsey, IRH Associate Director (apsey@wisc.edu; 608-262-3855).