Institute for Research in the Humanities

July 1, 2026

Dana-Allen Dissertation Fellowship in the Humanities

Call for Nominations 2027-2028
DEADLINE: Friday, February 5, 2027

The Institute for Research in the Humanities (IRH) at the University of Wisconsin–Madison is pleased to announce a competition for one Dana-Allen Dissertation Fellowship in the Humanities for 2027-2028. This fellowship is made possible through a generous bequest to the University of Wisconsin–Madison from the Chicago artist Eugene F. Dana (B.S. 1936) and named for Mr. Dana and Glenn R. Allen. **Application is by departmental nomination only.** Departmental nominations are limited to one candidate per department unless the department's graduate program has fifty or more actively enrolled (i.e. enrolled in credits and not on a leave of absence) students pursuing doctoral degrees with humanistically-oriented research projects at the time of nomination submission. In that case, the department may nominate two candidates. The deadline for departments to submit their chosen nominee(s) to the IRH is **Friday, February 5, 2027**. Awards will be announced in late March/early April. Departments will create their own internal deadlines; students should check with their department for further information.

The Dana-Allen 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 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.

The fellowship is open to Ph.D. students in the humanities or in the humanistically-oriented social sciences; candidates may be from any college or school at UW–Madison. Fellows may combine the Dana-Allen Dissertation Fellowship with another semester of support within an academic year, but the Dana-Allen 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 Dana-Allen stipend from the IRH. The Dana-Allen Dissertation Fellowship may not be deferred until a later date. Students who decline a Dana-Allen Dissertation Fellowship because they have been offered an academic-year fellowship (e.g., ACLS; AAUW; Charlotte Newcombe, etc.) may request honorary fellowship status at the IRH, with the possibility of office space, if available.

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 Dana-Allen Nomination Form. The 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). 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.
- Sample dissertation chapter. Up to 25 pages maximum double-spaced, *not* including bibliography and end notes.
- UW-Madison transcript. Showing GPA and prelim exam pass date and/or date of admission to candidacy (unofficial transcript copies are acceptable). If the student's transcript does not include candidacy or prelim pass date under "non-course milestones," send both the transcript and a copy of the "Dissertator Status" email the student received from the Graduate School.
- Departmental nomination letter. Short letter from the department chair or DGS addressing the candidate's standing in the graduate program, progress toward the degree, and suitability for a fellowship at the IRH.
- 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 Dana-Allen applications.
- Carefully complete the Dana-Allen 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, 4) sample chapter, 5) Copy of page from unofficial transcript showing qualifying exam date or Ph.D. candidacy status.
- Combine the nomination form and the five items above into a single PDF and submit it to your department by its internal due date. (Note: Some departments may require additional materials. Check with your chair, DGS, and/or administrator.) The file should be named in the following format:

  Dana-Allen.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 1) the departmental nomination letter, and 2) the advisor's letter of recommendation. Save this as a single pdf file named in the following format:

  Dana-Allen.2027-2028.NomineeLastName.Nominee FirstName_DeptName.pdf
- Send the pdf file to info@irh.wisc.edu by 5:00pm CT Friday, February 5, 2027. Include "Dana-Allen Nomination," the nominee's name, and your department name in the subject line.
- *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 departmental contacts of the status of their nomination in late March or early April.*
- *Note: Only the department administrator/DGS/chair listed on the application form and the student nominated will be notified of the competition results in late March/early April; please check contacts on the nomination form carefully.*

Deadline

- Nomination form and materials deadline to humanities departments: **determined by each department. Candidates should check with the department chair/administrator for the internal deadline, required application materials, and**

department-specific application process. Departments reserve the right to require additional documents or materials.

- Department chair/administrator/DGS deadline for submission of final candidate application packet pdf to the IRH: **5pm Friday, February 5, 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 the IRH Associate Director, Katie Apsey (apsey@wisc.edu; 608-262-3855).
- For questions about the receipt of pdfs or status of the competition, contact the IRH Project Assistant (info@irh.wisc.edu).