Institute for Research in the Humanities

November 11, 2026

Universities of Wisconsin Fellowships

Call for Applications for 2027–2028
Deadline: Friday, February 19, 2027

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 offer up to four fellowships each year to humanities faculty at the Universities of Wisconsin campuses. These fellowships offer release time from the majority of teaching and service for one semester. UW–Madison will provide up to $5,000 to the home institutions of Universities of Wisconsin Fellows visiting IRH and the Universities of Wisconsin will supplement each fellowship awarded with an additional $7,500 to the fellow's home institution (contingent upon upcoming budget approval). These funds ($12,500) are provided to the fellow's home institution and are to be used exclusively for defraying the cost of teaching release and release from non-compensated service for one semester. Fellows are provided an IRH office space, limited support services, and access to university facilities (libraries, databases) at UW–Madison. One-semester fellows with additional funding or release from their home institutions are invited to remain in residence at IRH for the full academic year and may extend their non-stipendiary appointments at UW–Madison by applying for "Honorary Fellowship" status near the end of their appointment. Fellowship offers may not be deferred.

Universities of Wisconsin Fellows are expected to participate in the intellectual life of IRH by attending the weekly Monday seminar (3:30 pm - 5:00 pm) in Madison, utilizing their campus office when in Madison, and giving a seminar presentation at IRH. NOTE: No hybrid participation options are currently available for seminars, so applicants should take the commute to Madison into account when applying. Fellows are also encouraged to join the weekly afternoon teas and other IRH events as time, commuting budget, and interest permit. Please consult IRH's website (irh.wisc.edu) for more information about other fellowships and activities. Before applying, applicants must work with their deans and department chair to ensure that they are able to comply with minimum teaching requirements and Act 15 guidance while on IRH fellowship.

IRH accepts applications from former Universities of Wisconsin Fellows (formerly "UW

System fellows") after seven years from the end date of their prior IRH fellowship. Those who were Universities of Wisconsin Fellows in the 2019–2020 season or before are eligible to apply for 2027–2028 fellowships.

The Universities of Wisconsin 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 IRH administration if you have questions about the definition of "substantive research" as it relates to your project.

Required Application Materials

- Universities of Wisconsin digital application. The application can be accessed at the following URL: https://forms.gle/bESp6kosfJboWZzPA
- Project proposal. Up to 1,500 words (about 5 double-spaced pages of 12-point font). **The proposal, which will be read and assessed by scholars most of whom are not in the candidate's field, 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 series of articles). For book projects, an outline of chapters is highly recommended. For revisions of dissertations, substantive change is expected; explain how the book will differ from the dissertation. The proposal should also state how the project will be accomplished and the specific work plan for the period of the fellowship. The Universities of Wisconsin Fellowship does not typically support editions, anthologies, or translations.
- Project bibliography. Publications (not your own) relevant to the project, up to 2 pages.
- *Curriculum Vitae*. Including work forthcoming and in progress.
- Letter from home institution. (E.g., department chair and/or dean) attesting to the ability to release applicant from as much teaching and service as possible for the semester of the fellowship.
- 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 emailed directly to IRH from the letter writer: info@irh.wisc.edu by 11:59PM CT, Friday, February 19, 2027**.
- Additionally, before beginning the online application, please have the following information ready:
    - Your Universities of Wisconsin HRS Employee ID # (found on payroll statements; not an ID card #).
    - A shortened 100-word abstract for your project/book (this is different than the full project proposal document above).
    - The name, title, and email address of 2 individuals who will be submitting recommendation letters for you.

Online Application and Attachment Specifications

- The Universities of Wisconsin Fellowship application form is available here: https://forms.gle/bESp6kosfJboWZzPA
    - We highly recommend that you prepare your application materials ahead of time and complete this application in one sitting. The application will take about 30–40 minutes to complete.
    - We cannot guarantee that your answers will be saved if you close this application before finishing section 6 and clicking the final "Submit" button. While working on the application, you will be able to navigate backward to previous sections to change an answer, but you will not be able to proceed to the next section until you have answered all required questions. Once you submit the form, you will not be able to change your answers.
    - Have all application materials listed below ready to upload (saved as pdf documents with the appropriate naming conventions) before beginning the application.
- You will upload the required application attachments (proposal, bibliography, CV, release letter) into the online application form. Make sure all required attachments are separate PDF files. Convert your files to pdfs before beginning the application.
- Attached files must be named using the following naming format. This helps us track your application among all the simultaneous IRH fellowship competitions and archive your materials:
    UofW_2027-2028_LastName.FirstName_Proposal.pdf
    UofW_2027-2028_LastName.FirstName_Bibliography.pdf
    UofW_2027-2028_LastName.FirstName_CV.pdf
    UofW_2027-2028_LastName.FirstName_ReleaseGuarantee.pdf
- Once the form is submitted, changes cannot be made.
- If you have trouble uploading files when submitting the application form, email info@irh.wisc.edu for assistance. In your email subject line, please mention that you are applying for the Universities of Wisconsin Fellowship.

Letters of Recommendation

- The **two** letters of recommendation required should address the significance and feasibility of the proposed research, quality of the proposal, qualifications for the project, and past work.
- Letters should be sent in pdf format directly to IRH (info@irh.wisc.edu) from the recommender. Letters must be received by 11:59 pm CT on February 19, 2027. IRH does not send a prompt to letter writers requesting the letters, so please share the instructions below when requesting your letters.
- IRH receives a large volume of applications and letters for multiple fellowships. To assure your application is received and processed quickly, please copy-paste the instructions below and send them to your letter writers:
    - Convert letter files to pdf format. Do not send Word documents.
    - Create the letter on official letterhead whenever possible. Do not send

unsigned letters.
    - Rename file to include "UofW," "Recommendation," the application year, recommender's name, and applicant's name for tracking/archiving purposes. Example: "UofW_2027-2028_Jane.Doe_Recommendation_John.Doe.pdf." Email the letter as a pdf attachment directly to IRH (info@irh.wisc.edu) no later than **11:59pm CT on Friday, February 19, 2027**.
    - Include "Universities of Wisconsin Fellowship" and the applicant's name in the email subject line when sending the pdf. Please do not send blank emails from copy/scanning devices.

Deadline

- Application materials and application form submitted online (by applicant): 11:59pm CT **Friday, February 19, 2027.**
- Letters of recommendation emailed to IRH (by recommenders): 11:59pm CT **Friday, February 19, 2027.**
- Notification: **Late March or early April 2027.**

Inquiries

- For substantive questions about projects and proposals, contact Susan Ridgley, IRH Interim Director for 2026-27 (susan.ridgely@wisc.edu).
- For all other questions about this fellowship and the application process, including funding, seminars, and offices, contact Katie Apsey, IRH Administrator/Associate Director (apsey@wisc.edu; 608-262-3855).
- If you have trouble uploading files or submitting the application, contact Kate Lohnes, IRH Project Assistant, for assistance (info@irh.wisc.edu). In your email subject line, please mention that you are applying for the Universities of Wisconsin Fellowship.