Arthur J. Schmitt Dissertation Fellowship In Leadership & Service  
2018-2019

The Graduate School uses a student-managed application process for fellowships. Applicants are to follow the directions below exactly. If any of the application materials are missing or not presented as described below, the application will be considered incomplete by the Graduate Fellowships Committee and will not be acted upon.

In order to be considered complete, your final application file must include all of the following items in the order listed below. You must clearly indicate the component parts (A, B, etc.) of your application, and all components must be in the order in which they appear below. Items A through F are to be submitted directly to the Graduate School by the student. Items G and H are to come directly from the relevant letter writers and academic departments, respectively.

A. **Applicant Information Sheet.** Please note that the Schmitt Fellowship requires that you achieve doctoral candidacy by the application deadline of Thursday, January 18, 2018. The requirements for doctoral candidacy are: 1) successful completion of all specifically required coursework; 2) fulfillment of all research tool requirements; 3) successful completion of all comprehensive examinations; 4) approval of the dissertation proposal by the approved dissertation committee, the IRB and/or the IACUC (if necessary) and the Graduate School. If your project requires IRB approval, it must be approved by the application deadline, or the Graduate School will not confirm your advancement to candidacy and you will be ineligible to apply.

B. **Current Transcript.** A current Loyola University Chicago transcript. An unofficial transcript acquired through LOCUS is acceptable. If there are any courses for which you have an outstanding grade of Incomplete (I), you must provide an explanation of the grade, and a plan for completing the work that has been approved by the instructor.

C. **Applicant’s Background.** On no more than four double-spaced pages, using 12-point font, provide the following information numbered in the order of the items given below. You may need to be selective in what you present in terms of publications and presentation in order to remain within the required page limit. Please follow this format and include the numbered subheadings. Do not attach a curriculum vitae or résumé.
   1. **Education.** List in reverse chronological order all education above the secondary-school level, including training and professional courses. Indicate institutions’ names, locations, dates attended, degrees awarded, and field of study.
   2. **Underrepresented Minority.** State if you are/are not an underrepresented minority. Provide details if you are.
   3. **Honors.** Indicate any fellowships, grants, and professional honors or awards. Note the dates received.
   4. **Publications.** List all publications in print or accepted for publication. Give full bibliographical citation. Identify any peer-reviewed publications. Do not list written work that is under review (i.e., not accepted for publication).
   5. **Conference Papers/Posters.** List all papers/posters presented or accepted for presentation at a scholarly meeting. Give full bibliographical reference.
   6. **Professional/Occupational Experience.** List in reverse chronological order all major jobs held, including military service. Include job titles or descriptions, employing organization, locations, and dates.
   7. **Teaching Experience.** List courses for which you have served (a) as an instructor of record and (b) as a teaching assistant. Indicate the institution, department, course number, and course title.
   8. **Other Experience.** Describe any major educational, professional, or personal experiences not covered above (e.g., academic study, service-related work, etc.) that are especially pertinent in qualifying you to undertake your dissertation. Explain how these experiences prepare you for doing this work.
   9. **Career Plans.** Describe your career plans and how dissertation fellowship support will contribute to them.
   10. **References.** List the name, position, telephone number, and e-mail address of each person who is writing a letter of recommendation (see item G below).

D. **Dissertation Project Abstract.** Include an abstract of the project, not to exceed 250 words, written in clear and concise language. Make sure it is appropriate for those outside your discipline. Note at the top of the document your name, academic program, dissertation title, and dissertation director.
E. **Dissertation Project Description.** On no more than six double-spaced pages, using 12-point font, describe the work you will do if you are selected as a dissertation fellow. The questions that follow must be numbered and addressed in your statement. Do not submit the dissertation proposal you submitted to your dissertation committee. In drafting your project description, keep in mind that your application will be judged by faculty members whose specialties will likely be quite different than your own, so please use language accessible to non-specialists. Accordingly, you must demonstrate: (1) the importance of your project in the field from which it derives and (2) familiarity with academic literature relevant to your topic.

1. **Subject and Significance:** What is the basic problem or question on which your dissertation focuses? What is your thesis? Why is the topic important? What is its significance beyond the immediate focus of the dissertation and field of study? Explain the originality of this project and the ways in which it will contribute to knowledge.

2. **Methods and Design:** What theories, hypotheses, concepts, perspectives, and research methods will be used? What body of materials, data, evidence, or other resources will you draw on, and how will you obtain them? Do you plan to do any field work? If so, explain.

3. **Results:** Do you plan to publish the results of your dissertation? If so, in what form (e.g., a book, articles)?

4. **Work Plan and Schedule of Completion:** Describe the steps that you already have taken toward finishing your dissertation and those that remain (e.g., data gathering, data analysis, writing of draft chapters, draft revisions, final approval, etc.). What tasks and procedures are required for completing these steps? Provide a realistic timetable indicating when each of the steps and tasks will be completed.

F. **Essay.** An essential part of the missions of Loyola University Chicago and the Arthur J. Schmitt Foundation is a dedication to the pursuit of knowledge in the service of humanity. It is therefore appropriate for applicants to reflect upon factors underlying their research choices and to observe the impact their research has on others, with a particular emphasis on the relationship between one’s research and a commitment to the service of humanity. On no more than three double-spaced pages, using 12-point font, write an essay in response to the following questions:

1. How will your research benefit the general public?
2. How will this experience develop you as a person to become a leader for Loyola and society?

G. **Two Letters of Recommendation.** Letters of recommendation from faculty members who know you well are an important source of information for the Graduate Fellowships Committee. One of the letters must be from your dissertation director. Use the enclosed forms to request the letters. Be sure to do so in a timely fashion. The letter writers should receive a copy of your dissertation project description (item E above), and you should discuss it with them so that they may provide a thorough recommendation to the Committee. The letters are to be submitted in PDF format directly to the Graduate School.

H. **Department Evaluations:** Applicants are to submit a copy of items B, C, and E to the department chair and GPD so that it is received by Wednesday, January 3, 2018. It is the applicant’s responsibility to meet this deadline so that the department chair and GPD have sufficient time to complete the Department Evaluation Form and submit it to the Graduate School office by the final deadline date of Thursday, January 18, 2018.

**Instructions for Submitting the Application**

Applications must be submitted as a single PDF to Michelle Cerullo, Awards Coordinator in the Graduate School, at mcerullo@luc.edu by midnight, Thursday, January 18, 2018. Paper submissions will not be accepted.

Please note that if you are awarded a fellowship, the Graduate School may request certain portions of the application (e.g., the abstract, essay) in MS Word format for inclusion in reports for the Schmitt Foundation.

Questions regarding the application process or other matters concerning dissertation fellowships may be directed to Dr. Jessica Horowitz, Associate of the Graduate School at jhorow@luc.edu. The Graduate Fellowships Committee will make its award decisions by late February.
### Applicant Information Sheet

Name: ___________________________________________________________ ID#: _____________________________

Last       First       Middle

Current Address: ____________________________________________________________________________

Street         Apt

__________________________________________

City      State    Zip Code

E-mail Address: _____________________@luc.edu  Telephone Number (Day): (___)__________________________

Department: __________________________________________________________________________________

Program: _____________________________________________________________________________________

Date Advanced to Candidacy: _____________________________________________________________________

Dissertation Director: __________________________________________________________________________
Arthur J. Schmitt Dissertation Fellowship In Leadership & Service
2018-2019

Request for a Letter of Recommendation

Applicant’s Name: _____________________________________________________________

Department: ___________________________ Program: _____________________________

The applicant is to request a letter of recommendation by giving this form to the faculty member, as well as a copy of the dissertation project description (item E in the application instructions). The applicant should discuss the project with the faculty member so that s/he may provide a thorough recommendation to the Graduate Fellowships Committee.

Dear Faculty Member:

Using departmental letterhead, please write an evaluation of the applicant. In your evaluation, please comment on the following:

• your professional relationship to the applicant;
• the originality and initiative of the applicant;
• any unique qualities of your program or of the student that you feel the Committee should know;
• the originality or innovation evident in the dissertation topic and/or its methodology;
• the significant contribution of the project to the discipline; and
• a realistic time estimate for the completion of the dissertation.

Please limit the length of your letter to two pages. The letters are to be submitted in PDF format to Michelle Cerullo, Awards Coordinator in the Graduate School, at mcerullo@luc.edu by Thursday, January 18, 2018.

Paper submissions will not be accepted. You do not need to return this form or your copy of the dissertation project description with the letter.

Your cooperation in providing your letter to the applicant in a timely manner is an essential part of the application process. The Graduate Fellowships Committee places great importance on your recommendation and thanks you for your assistance.

Request for a Letter of Recommendation

Applicant's Name: ________________________________________________________________

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Department Evaluation Form

Instructions for the Applicant
1. Complete only Part I of this form.
2. Submit the following material to the department so that it is received by Wednesday, January 3, 2018:
   - One copy of this form;
   - A copy of your Loyola University Chicago transcript;
   - A copy of your background information (see item C in the application instructions); and
   - A copy of your dissertation project description (see item E in the application instructions).

Part I. Applicant’s Name: ________________________________________________________________

Department: ____________________________ Program: ___________________________________

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Degree Requirements</th>
<th>Date Completed</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Course work</td>
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<tr>
<td>2. Research Tool</td>
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<tr>
<td>3. Ph.D. Comprehensive Exam</td>
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<td>4. Dissertation Proposal (approved by committee)</td>
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<td>5. Candidacy</td>
<td>____________</td>
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<tr>
<td>6. Other Requirements (if applicable)</td>
<td>____________</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Grade point average (for Loyola courses applicable toward the Ph.D.): ____________

Instructions for the Department
The Department Chair and the Graduate Program Director are to work together to complete the remaining parts of this form (Parts II, III, and IV). Please type rather than hand-write responses. Because of the importance of the departmental evaluation, please provide complete information.

On a scale of 1 (lowest) to 7 (highest), rate each applicant’s overall potential for dissertation research and the quality of each applicant’s dissertation project in the appropriate places on this form. You may not use gradations of tenths within the 1 to 7 scale (e.g., 3.7). If decimals are used, they will be rounded down in the tabulation.

Please do not award each proposal a straight 7. The Graduate Fellowships Committee seeks helpful advice via this rating system and requests that you reflect differences among the applicants in your department by differences among the numbers of points you award to all the applicants from your department. If you do not provide a rating of this proposal, the Graduate School will assign it a score of 4.
To avoid rating inflation, consider a score of 4 as normative, with scores above that only for the most outstanding proposals. This normative scoring should be related to the evaluation of the historical cohort of your applicants to the Dissertation Fellows Program over the past five years. If you think that two proposals are of exact equal quality, you may, of course, give them both the same number of points. However, if your ratings do not differentiate among the proposals from your department, the ratings may be discounted by the Committee.

Part II. Assessment of applicant’s performance in graduate school. Please rate the applicant’s performance (excluding the dissertation proposal) in relation to other applicants from your department for the dissertation fellowships this year:

A. Overall performance in graduate school Rating: _____

B. Research productivity (in terms of both quantity and quality) Rating: _____

C. If the applicant has either published or presented jointly authored papers, what role did he/she play in their preparation? What is the quantity and quality of those papers and presentations?

D. How typical is it for graduate students in your field to publish papers and/or present papers at professional meetings?

E. Please make any additional specific comments regarding the performance of the applicant in your graduate program, comparing the performance with other students in your department in terms of progress toward the degree, grade point average, etc.
Part III. Assessment of applicant’s dissertation proposal.

A. Please rate the applicant’s dissertation project description (Item E) in relation to applicants from your department holding dissertation fellowships this year. Rating: _____

B. Please discuss the strengths or weaknesses of the project (Item E), giving consideration to the following questions: Is it theoretically well conceived? Is it methodologically well constructed? Is the approach innovative? Does it have real significance for the discipline? How does it compare with other proposals from your department?

IV. Overall Evaluation.

You have rated each applicant’s academic performance and dissertation proposal. Now you are asked to rank each applicant. Ranking should be done in context of all applicants from your department (i.e., first out of four applicants, third out of six applicants, etc.). No decimal points should be used in the ranking space. The rankings must differentiate among the candidates from your department (i.e., do not assign the same rank to two or more candidates). If only one applicant applies from your department, you may include a statement comparing this applicant’s abilities to a larger cohort of current or former students (e.g. top 5% or in top 20 of 100 students in the last five years).

This applicant ranks _______ out of ________ applicants from our department this year.

V. Signatures

Department Chair: ________________________________ Date: ___________

Graduate Program Director: ________________________________ Date: ___________

Instructions for Submitting the Department Evaluation Form

The department is to submit an individual PDF of each applicant’s Department Evaluation Form to Michelle Cerullo, Awards Coordinator in the Graduate School, at mcerullo@luc.edu by Thursday, January 18, 2018. Paper submissions will not be accepted.

Please do not send any other material the applicant gave to the department with this form. The Graduate School and the Graduate Fellowships Committee appreciates greatly your assistance in the application process.