

ABOUT

The SSRC-Mellon Mays Graduate Initiatives Program is an extension of the Mellon Mays Undergraduate Fellowship (MMUF) program.



MMUF's goal is to cultivate a new generation of scholars who are committed to diversity and equity at colleges and universities in the United States and South Africa.

The Graduate Initiatives Program supports MMUF fellows who are pursuing the doctorate with the intention of joining the professoriate. It consists of a targeted series of grants and seminars, beginning with the early stages of graduate school and continuing through the post-PhD years. About 700 fellows are currently in doctoral programs. Over 550 fellows have received PhDs and are teaching in 200 colleges and universities around the world.

Fellows must be enrolled in a doctoral program in one of the fields listed below.

FIELDS OF STUDY

- Anthropology and Archaeology
- Area/Cultural/Ethnic/Gender Studies
- Art History
- Classics
- Computer Science
- Geography and Population Studies
- Earth/Environmental/Geological Science and Ecology
- English
- Film, Cinema and Media Studies (theoretical focus)
- Foreign Languages and Literatures
- History

PROGRAMS

The Graduate Initiatives Program offers a carefully-planned sequence of seminars that provide Mellon fellows with the tools for professional success and incorporate the Mellon Mays core principles of mentoring and networking.

Summer Conference

The Summer Conference is the flagship component of the Graduate Initiatives Program. Targeted toward fellows in the early stages of graduate school, it provides a forum for skills exchange, cohort-building, and professional development.

- For graduating seniors and fellows in years 1-3 of graduate school; fellows may attend twice
- Provides tools and skills for managing the early years of graduate school

Proposal Writing and Dissertation Development Seminar (PWDDS)

The PWDDS has two parallel tracks: one that addresses the process of preparing the research proposal, and one for advanced students focusing on writing the dissertation. Fellows work in small groups with a facilitator.

- For US fellows in years 3-6
- Fellows benefit from individual consultation, participate in peer review, and are given significant time for individual progress on the proposal or dissertation
- Mellon PhDs facilitate the seminar, reinforcing the tenet of mentoring as a component of the Mellon Mays Program

Graduate Writing Seminar (GWS)

The GWS was developed specifically to advance the progress of our fellows in South African

universities. The Seminar is designed to help fellows meet the milestones in the South African course of study. Fellows working on the Master's proposal, Master's dissertation, PhD proposal, PhD thesis, or an article for publication work in small groups with a facilitator.

- For South African fellows in years 2-6
- Fellows benefit from individual consultation, participate in peer review, and are given significant time for individual progress on their writing projects
- Mellon PhDs from South Africa and the US facilitate small groups

Dissertation Writing Retreat (DWR)

The DWR is for fellows who plan to finish their dissertation within one year. It is structured to create a writing practice and accountability system that fellows can use throughout their academic careers.

- For fellows in year 6 and beyond
- Fellows meet once a day to discuss planning and accomplishments
- Mellon PhDs facilitate small groups

Preparing for the Professoriate (PFPS)

The PFPS is for fellows entering the job market. The seminar provides the skills fellows need to negotiate their first faculty appointments successfully. The job search process is simulated from cover letter and CV to campus visit, job talk, and contract negotiation.

- For fellows who are close to or finished with the dissertation and are on the job market
- Addresses the issues faced by first-year faculty members
- Facilitated by Mellon PhDs

Postdoctoral Fellows Retreat

The Postdoctoral Fellows Retreat brings together Mellon PhDs to engage and discuss the key issues and challenges they face as faculty. It is designed primarily for those who are at the stage of reappointment, tenure, and other stages of promotion.

- For fellows who have completed the PhD and have at least 1-2 years of faculty experience
- Provides opportunities to revive and solidify relationships with colleagues and mentors, reflect upon their journeys, and recommit to the Mellon Mays mission.

Regional Lecture Series

The Lecture Series brings together undergraduates, graduate students, coordinators, and faculty in each region for intellectual engagement and community-building. Each lecture invites a Mellon PhD to speak about his or her research. A reception follows and a directory of attendees is provided so that fellows may continue to build community in their regions.

GRANTS

The Graduate Initiatives Program offers three predoctoral grant opportunities: the Graduate Studies Enhancement Grant (GSE), the Predoctoral Research Development Grant (PRD), and the Dissertation Completion Grant (DCG). Each fellow may apply for one grant per year and can receive a maximum of \$5,000 in GSE and PRD funds.



Graduate Studies Enhancement Grant (GSE)

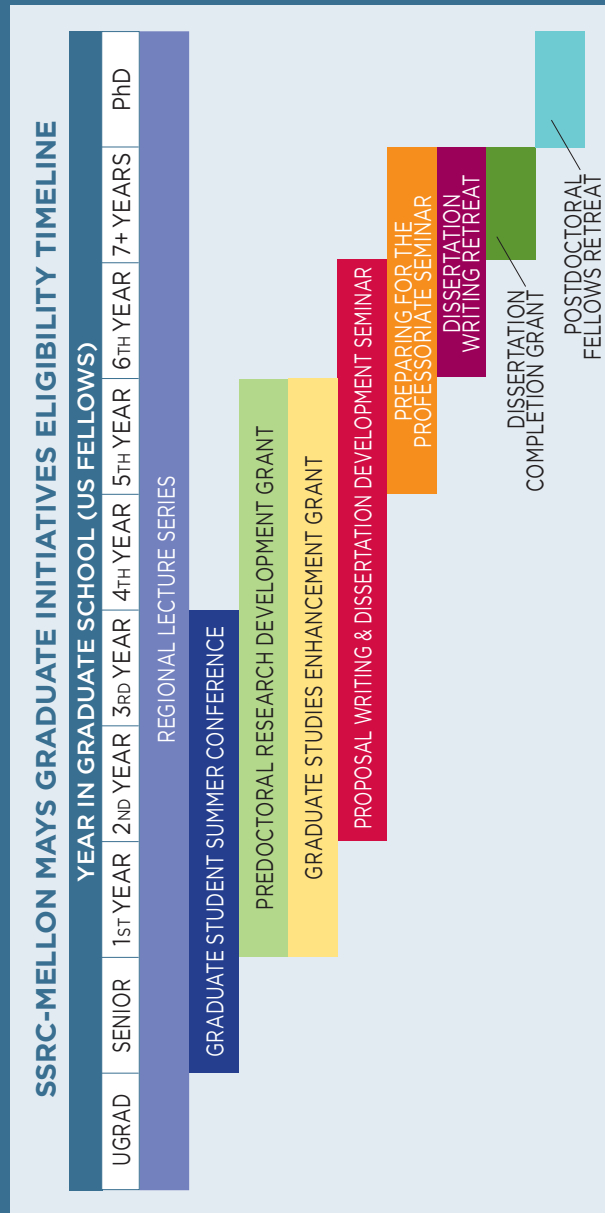
- For US fellows in years 2-5; for South African fellows in years 1-5
- Up to \$1,500 per academic year; may be received up to 4 times
- Funds travel, equipment, books, journal subscriptions, and software

Predocctoral Research Development Grant (PRD)

- For US fellows in years 2-5; for South African fellows in years 1-5
- One-time grant up to \$3,000
- Funds preliminary research

Dissertation Completion Grant (DCG)

- For fellows in year 7 and beyond; fellows must provide a timeline for completion within 12 months
- One-time grant of up to \$2,500
- Funds travel, equipment, books, and software that support dissertation completion



CONTACT INFORMATION

The SSRC-Mellon Mays Graduate Initiatives Program
One Pierrepont Plaza, 15th Floor
Brooklyn, NY 11201
Phone: 718.517.3617 Fax: 212.377.2727
Web: mellonmays.ssrc.org
Email: mellonmays@ssrc.org

[SSRC Mellon-Mays](https://www.linkedin.com/company/ssrc-mellon-mays)

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