What is the CLST Fellowship? It provides one full academic year of nonteaching financial support for dissertation writing.

How many are given? From its inception in the mid-1980s, CLST has enjoyed the distinction among other Dietrich School certificate program in being able to offer two fellowships; however, as part of temporary across-the-board budget cuts in 2019, the allocation has been for a limited time reduced to one fellowship per year.

What is the level of support? The fellowship stipend is based on the same scale as the TA/TF allocations, the exact amount of which changes every year.

Who is eligible? CLST certificate students who have passed their comprehensive examinations but who will not be beyond their sixth year of Pitt funding in their fellowship year.

What does application consist of? CLST Fellowship Application form; 3-5 double spaced statement of purpose; a 10-20 page writing sample, related to the dissertation topic; current c.v.; list of up to CLST courses completed; graduate transcripts; and 3 letters of recommendation sent by the persons writing them.

What should applicants do in the statement of purpose? 1) establish the significance of the planned work for the field of cultural studies and the applicant’s home discipline; 2) specify the scope of the objects of study and methods the applicant will employ in studying them; 3) identify the requisite skills, background, and knowledge the applicant has to accomplish the work; 4) demonstrate the viability of both the dissertation and the work plan for the fellowship year; and 5) present well-formed plans for disseminating the results of the dissertation work.

When is the fellowship due? The third Friday in every January at 4PM.

Who decides who is awarded a Fellowship? Each October the full faculty membership of CLST elects a six-person committee (with the CLST Director serving ex-officio) to evaluate applications and to rank the worthiest among them for awards.

When does the Fellowship Committee meet? In the last two weeks of February.

Are their any duties attached to the Fellowship? While nothing but the assurance of steady progress on the dissertation is required, recipients are strongly encouraged to participate in CLST’s Annual Dissertation Writers’ First Friday Colloquium, present a slice of the dissertation work at the annual Fellowship Showcase event in December, and stage a dissertation-related Pecha-Kucha performance at CLST’s Lightning Rounds in April.

For answers to further questions, contact Professor Ronald J. Zboray, Director of the Graduate for Cultural Studies, 401c Cathedral of Learning (Zboray@pitt.edu).