

Graduate Fellowship of Distinction in Philosophy

Updated August 2020

Purpose:

The Graduate Fellowship of Distinction in Philosophy (GFDP) is awarded to encourage and assist truly outstanding students in their final year of doctoral study to concentrate exclusively on and complete their dissertations. It is designed to be awarded to students who have made significant progress on the research and writing of their dissertations, and who will forge ahead independently and with their supervisory committees. The GFDP is competitive, and is awarded to those graduate students whose research, progress, and commitment set them apart from their cohort.

The GFDP can be held in a student's fifth or sixth year. When the award is offered in a student's fifth year, it is held for 3 terms. When the award is offered in a student's sixth year, it can be offered for 1, 2, or 3 terms. This will be determined by the Graduate Scholarships Committee, in consultation with the Graduate Program Director, based on the progress of the student and the estimated need to support timely dissertation completion. The Department reserves the right not to award the Fellowship in a given year, based on the considered judgment of the Scholarships Committee. Under exceptional circumstances, the Committee may decide to award more than one GFDP in a year.

Value:

The GFDP can be held either as a full-year scholarship or a part-year scholarship. When held as a full year scholarship, the value of the Fellowship is **\$24,000**. When held for 1 or 2 terms, the value will be **\$8000** (1 term) or **\$16,000** (2 terms).

Eligibility:

In order to be considered eligible for this award, students must be nominated by their supervisor and a member of their dissertation committee. They must also:

- Be current full-time registered doctoral students in the York Department of Philosophy;
- Be in the 4th or 5th year of doctoral study (or equivalent given leaves/accommodations) at the time of nomination;
- Have completed all coursework and program requirements except the dissertation;
- Have confirmation from their supervisor and an additional committee member that they are on track to complete the dissertation by the end of the academic year.

Further, applicants who will receive the fellowship for their 5th year must be prepared to finish their PhD that year, or switch to part-time status for the 6th year.

Criteria:

Successful nominees will have demonstrated to the Scholarships Committee that they:

- Are outstanding students with an A average and a track record of excellent academic and research progress;
- Have external confirmation from their supervisor of their dissertation progress and expected completion date;
- Provide evidence of an original, well-conceived, and philosophically substantive dissertation project in their statement.

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Students may be nominated for both the Susan Mann and Provost Fellowships and the GFDP but they may not hold both. Students who receive and decide to take up the Mann or Provost Fellowship must withdraw their application from the GFDP pool.

Required Documentation:

Students should submit the following to the Graduate Program Office, no later than **March 1:**

- A statement from the student outlining the details of their research and their plans for completion of the dissertation within the year and agreeing to the terms of the Scholarship;
- A letter of nomination from the supervisor indicating how the nominee meets the criteria, including when the dissertation committee expects completion of the dissertation during the term of the Scholarship;
- A second letter of nomination from an additional member of the dissertation committee commenting on the nominee's progress on the dissertation to date, and the plan for completion during the term of the Scholarship;
- York University Transcript (an unofficial transcript or records from student account are acceptable), and;
- A current curriculum vitae.

Nomination packages will be reviewed by the Scholarships Committee, and decisions communicated by the Graduate Program Director.

For more information, please contact gpaphil@yorku.ca