

The department is now in the position to backstop some applications for Dissertation Year Fellowships.

As background, recall that in recent years it has occasionally transpired that students have made good-faith applications to Graduate Division for a Dissertation Year Fellowship in their sixth year, but have been unsuccessful in obtaining funding. The department can now support some students in this situation with funding for their seventh year. This will serve to better align our support levels with those of our peer institutions.

We have established the following guidelines.

To be eligible for the backstop, the applicant must be making satisfactory progress toward the degree.

After having applied for the Dissertation Year Fellowship and having learned the outcome of the Dissertation Year Fellowship, one applies for the backstop by arranging for the following materials to be sent to the Graduate Advisors:

- (a) The Dissertation Year Fellowship application itself.
- (b) Two complete chapter drafts from the dissertation.
- (c) A brief statement from the dissertation chair on the progress of the dissertation and its proximity to completion, attesting that the student is making satisfactory progress toward the degree.

The deadline for this will be about two weeks after the announcement of the outcome of the Dissertation Year Fellowship (in 2020, the announcement of that outcome will be in late May). Information and reminders about this deadline will be sent out at the time of the announcement of the outcome of the Dissertation Year Fellowship.

While we envision that the backstop would primarily provide funding during the seventh year of the PhD program, in the event that a student anticipates finishing the dissertation before the seventh year, the student may petition the Graduate Advisors to apply for department resources in an earlier year. The student must complete the same application procedure as above.

In addition, a student who receives a Dissertation Year Fellowship backstop from the department becomes thereby ineligible to receive further fellowship and TA support from the department during the subsequent academic years.

Finally, a brief remark on the relationship between the Dissertation Year Fellowship backstop and the “Program Accommodations for Research Doctoral Students Who Are Parents” described in [“Standards and Procedures for Graduate Study at UCLA”](#) (p. 35 of the October 2019 version). Acknowledging and respecting this policy has consequences for graduate degree clocks and funding. A central case is that of a student who has had a child during the PhD (see “Standards and Procedures” for other cases.) A student who has had a child during the PhD and is, by the

calendar, in year 7 of the program is effectively in year 6, and is, if she wishes, to be treated as such for purposes of degree requirements and funding. Such a person is eligible to apply for a Dissertation Year Fellowship from Graduate Division, as well as the Dissertation Year Fellowship backstop from the department, even though students in year 7 generally are not. However, Graduate Division requires proper documentation, and the student ought see to it that the Department Student Affairs officer is fully apprised and records the information at the time when the new parental responsibilities are incurred.