Financial Support

The Department of History at the University of Illinois has built one of the best records for student financial support among graduate History programs at public research universities. Financial support opportunities include fellowships, teaching assistantships, research assistantships, and minority student fellowships. Decisions regarding financial support are made between February 15 and April 15. Most students will be sent offer letters by April 15 or shortly thereafter.

First-year students receive fellowships, and the great majority of History graduate students receive some form of support from the University of Illinois during years two through seven depending on their progress in the program. The department also helps advanced doctoral candidates find outside fellowships from foundations and national and international granting agencies. Graduate students in fields covered by the area studies centers may receive federally funded renewable FLAS fellowships. The department provides pre-dissertation travel and research funding as well as fellowships for dissertation travel and research.

Typically the graduate program is made up of about 100 students, of which nearly one-quarter serve as teaching assistants or on work-study assignments in the department each semester. Other students are supported through research assistantships and a variety of other positions both inside and outside the department. An additional one-fifth of History graduate students are on internal or external fellowship support at any given time.

Highly ranked students accepted into our non-western History fields (Africa, Latin America, and Russia/East Europe) may be nominated for Foreign Language Area Studies (FLAS) fellowships by faculty in the field; nominees will be contacted to complete the FLAS application process.

Important: The History department does not usually provide summer funding for its students except for a small number of TA positions for summer courses. Students are encouraged to secure employment from other sources---many of which are listed by the Student Financial Aid Office or the Graduate College. NOTE: International Students should consult the Office of International Student Affairs for further details regarding summer employment.

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