Merle E. Simmons Research Fellowship

Description: This is an annual fellowship with the goal of supporting students completing dissertation work in the topics of colonial Latin America, Mexican literature, or more generally, Latin American literature. One ABD awardee will receive a one-course teaching release to support dissertation research. If conditions permit, two ABD awardees will each receive a one-course teaching release.

Eligibility:

- This fellowship is reserved for students whose doctoral dissertation proposal has been accepted per program guidelines. Students must be G901 eligible.
- Academic merit of the proposal is the predominant criterion for awarding the fellowship. Applications will be evaluated based on the value of their contribution to the field. In addition, the application will be assessed for its capacity to accelerate the student's completion of her or his dissertation.
- Timely progress toward dissertation defense and good academic standing will also be considered in the selection process.
- The fellowship recipient must be on campus during the semester and present a Brown Bag lecture or report as evidence of the progress made during their fellowship period.
- Priority will be given to students whose dissertations focus on colonial Latin America or Mexican literature.

Applications:

- Students must provide a 1000-word application that includes: 1) an abstract with a title; 2) a description based on the dissertation proposal; 3) the goals that the fellowship will allow them to accomplish.
- One letter of recommendation required (the recommender will be invited to upload the letter directly to IU Scholarships)
- Application materials should be submitted through IU Scholarships by **March 1**.

Assessment:

- The Grad Grants committee will assess proposals based on promise, feasibility, and the eligibility criteria explained above.
- The application will then be ranked based on: (1) the value of their contribution to the field, and (2) the feasibility of progress toward completion during the semester of the fellowship.
- Preference will be given to students who have not previously received this award.