

# NORTHWESTERN UNIVERSITY

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## Inter-Office Correspondence

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**Date:** March 13, 2008

**To:** Department Chairs and Graduate Program Directors  
(for WCAS Divisions 2 and 3 plus Mathematics and Statistics)

**From:** Craig Bina, Associate Dean for Research & Graduate Studies, WCAS

**RE:** **2008-2009 Weinberg Dissertation Writing Fellowship (WDFW),  
formerly the Weinberg Dissertation Research Fellowship (WDRF)**

The **Weinberg Dissertation Research Fellowship (WDRF)** is changing. This year The Graduate School introduced a second year of fellowship support for all graduate students, effectively reducing the rationale for the research component of the WDRF. However, provision of this additional year of fellowship support entails consuming the former TGS Dissertation Year Fellowship (DYF) program as well as some other specialized fellowships (including at least part of the WDRF program).

While students are encouraged to complete their graduate studies within five years, there are subfields in which additional time is commonly required. The additional year of TGS fellowship, however, will in most cases be used by the 5<sup>th</sup> year of graduate study. In response to these developments, the WRDF will now evolve (in reduced form) into the **Weinberg Dissertation Writing Fellowship (WDFW)**.

Students currently in their 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> years of graduate study who have demonstrated excellence and strong prospects for success are eligible to apply. It is intended to fund students in their 6<sup>th</sup> or 7<sup>th</sup> year of graduate study. Eligible nominees already will have submitted at least one chapter of their dissertation at the time of nomination, and there should be a clear expectation that they will complete their dissertations by the end of the fellowship year.

Students who have received Dissertation Year Fellowships, Research Fellowships, Alumnae Fellowships, or Presidential Fellowships for 2008-09, are not eligible. If not otherwise ineligible under the terms of the preceding paragraph, students who currently hold Graduate Research Fellowships or Alumnae Fellowships are eligible for nomination.

The number of applicants each program may nominate varies with the size of the graduate program. **Economics, History, and Political Science** each may submit up to 3 nominations. **Anthropology, Art History, English, Mathematics, Philosophy, Psychology, and Sociology** each may submit up to 2 nominations. **African American Studies, Comparative Literature, French and Italian, German, Linguistics, Religion, Theatre and Drama, Slavic Languages, and Statistics** each may submit 1 nomination.

Nominations must include a nominating letter from the department, a concise (1-3 double-spaced pages, with references possibly extending onto a 4<sup>th</sup> page) explanation of the dissertation project, and two letters of support from faculty members, addressed to the Dean. Nominations should be sent to [wcas-grad@wcas.northwestern.edu](mailto:wcas-grad@wcas.northwestern.edu) or to the WCAS Associate Dean for Research and Graduate Studies by April 14, 2008. No late nominations will be accepted.

<http://www.wcas.northwestern.edu/graduate/WDRF08-09.pdf>