Dissertation Fellowship Program in Retirement Research
2017 Proposal Guidelines

The Center for Retirement Research at Boston College (CRR) is soliciting proposals for the Dissertation Fellowship Program in Retirement Research. The program's purpose is to promote the next generation of retirement income and policy research scholars and to improve the quality of scholarship in Social Security and retirement income and policy studies.

Applicants must demonstrate that their dissertation focuses on one of the following research priorities: (1) Social Security and retirement income and policy; (2) macroeconomic analyses of Social Security; (3) wealth and retirement income; (4) program interactions; (5) international research; or (6) demographic research. Applicants are required to: (1) be enrolled in a qualified doctoral program at a U.S. university; (2) have completed all coursework for a Ph.D. by the time funding would start; (3) have a dissertation advisor and/or committee; and (4) have the chair of the dissertation committee confirm that he/she has read and approved the research methodology for the proposal. Doctoral candidates from all academic disciplines are encouraged to submit a proposal.

Up to five grants of $28,000 will be awarded. The deadline for submitting a proposal is 5:00pm (EST) on Tuesday, January 31, 2017. Awards will be announced in April 2017. The program is funded by a grant from the U.S. Social Security Administration (SSA).

PROPOSAL REQUIREMENTS

Minimum Requirements for Fellowship Applicants:
1. Applicant must be enrolled in a qualified doctoral program at a U.S. university.
2. Applicant must have completed all coursework and have completed the appropriate examinations or qualifications to be considered A.B.D.
3. Applicants must have a dissertation proposal focused on one of the Social Security Administration research priorities (see Priority Research Areas below).
4. Applicants must have a dissertation advisor and committee.
5. Applicants must have the chair of the dissertation committee approve the research methodology using the provided form.

Priority Research Areas
Dissertation Proposals must be focused on a minimum of one of the following areas:
- Social Security and retirement income and policy
- Macroeconomic analyses of Social Security
- Wealth and retirement income

- Program interactions
- International research
- Demographic research

Format of Fellowship Proposal
Proposals should not exceed 12 pages. Twelve-point, Times New Roman font, 1.5 line spacing, and 1-inch margins are required.

Required elements of the proposal include:
1. Cover page with the researcher's name, dissertation title, institution, list of committee members and advisor. [1 page]
2. Abstract describing the project purpose, data, and methods. [1 page]
3. Description of research question, methodology, data, and timeline. [9 pages]
4. References [1 page]

SUBMISSION PROCESS

All Fellowship applicants must complete the online submission form found at the [Center's website](#).

Required components of the online application include:
1. Contact information, institutional affiliation, and education history.
2. Research proposal (Word or PDF attachment).
3. Current CV.
4. Electronic copy of doctoral transcript (scanned copies and/or degree audits are permitted).
5. Name and contact information of two persons writing letters of recommendation.
6. Signed form from dissertation committee chair approving the research methodology.

Submissions must be received through the online system by 5:00pm (EST) on Tuesday, January 31, 2017.

Letters of Recommendation
Fellowship applicants are required to submit two letters of recommendation for their dissertation proposal. One letter must be from the dissertation chair or academic advisor. Letters are also subject to the above deadline, and must be submitted through the online system by the person writing the letter at the [Center's website](#).

REVIEW PROCESS

Submissions will be reviewed by a panel that will include representatives from the Retirement Research Consortium institutions. The following criteria will be used to evaluate proposals:

1. Relevance of the dissertation proposal to retirement income policy as listed in the Priority Research Areas section.
2. Evidence that the candidate has passed any or all comprehensive and/or special area exams associated with A.B.D. status.
3. Qualifications of the applicant.
4. Dissertation advisor and committee members.
5. A proposal that has been formally approved by the student's full dissertation committee.
7. Research design and methodology.
8. Research proposal schedule and timeline.

NOTIFICATION OF AWARD

Awards will be announced in April 2017. A draft of the dissertation must be submitted within a year of the award to demonstrate adequate process.

QUESTIONS AND ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

For any questions about the Dissertation Fellowship Program, please call Marina Tsiknis at (617) 552-1092 or e-mail tsiknis@bc.edu.

About the Center for Retirement Research
The Center for Retirement Research at Boston College was established in 1998 through a grant from the Social Security Administration. The Center's mission is to produce first-class research and forge a strong link between the academic community and decision makers in the public and private sectors around an issue of critical importance to the nation's future. To achieve this mission, the Center sponsors a wide variety of research projects, transmits new findings to a broad audience, trains new scholars, and broadens access to valuable data sources. Since its inception, the Center has established a reputation as an authoritative source of information on all major aspects of the retirement income and policy debate.

Potential applicants are encouraged to visit the Center's website at crr.bc.edu to learn more about our research and activities. To join the Center's mailing list, please send an e-mail to crr@bc.edu or fill out an online form through our website.