

2025 SPA/Robert Lemelson Foundation Fellowship Program Fellowship Details and Application Instructions

Due: Friday, **November 1, 2024**

Contact: Bridget M. Haas, SPA Secretary, bmh7@case.edu

The SPA/Robert Lemelson Foundation Fellowships are designed to provide graduate students working in the field of psychological anthropology with funding to pursue exploratory research for planning their doctoral dissertation research and /or methods training to prepare for their doctoral dissertation research. Research projects supported by the funding should have the potential of advancing the field of psychological anthropology.

Normally, fellows receive their awards after their first or second year of graduate training as they begin to develop their dissertation research projects. Proposed exploratory projects are evaluated for viability and the potential of resulting in future dissertation research that will advance the field of psychological anthropology. Preference is given to applicants conducting exploratory research abroad. We expect to award six or more fellowships (depending upon funding levels) in 2025 with each fellow expected to receive between \$3,000 and \$6,000 depending upon need.

Eligibility:

- Fellowships are open to all graduate students without regard to citizenship or place of residence.
- Applicants must be enrolled in a graduate program at the time of application and during the period of the fellowship. Applicants' proposed research must be in the field of psychological anthropology, broadly defined, but they do not need to be students in Departments of Anthropology.
- Applicants cannot have completed more than four years of graduate education, including all institutions that they have attended.
- Applicants must be current members of the Society of Psychological Anthropology (SPA), a section of the American Anthropological Association (AAA) as of Friday, November 1, 2024. Details on joining the AAA and the SPA can be found at <https://spa.americananthro.org/join-spa/>. (Note: If the applicant is not a current member, we suggest submitting the membership application well in advance to be sure that the membership is current by the deadline.)
- **The funding cannot be used to collect data for the fellow's master's thesis or doctoral dissertation.** This funding is explicitly for exploratory research to plan doctoral dissertation research, not for collection of data for broader projects.
- Funding is typically for summer research and will fund research conducted **prior to** September 1, 2025.

- Funding will be administered through fellows' academic institutions.
- Fellows are required to disclose additional funding that they have received, applied for, or plan to apply for to support their proposed research project (see required RLF Fellowship application form). In cases where awardees secure funding additional to the Robert Lemelson Foundation fellowship, they are strictly prohibited from using RLF fellowship funds to cover expenses that are already covered by other funding mechanisms. Fellows may use Robert Lemelson Foundation fellowship funds only for expenses that are not covered by those additional funding mechanisms.
- All fellows are required to attend the 2025 AAA SPA Biennial Meeting in Santa Ana Pueblo, NM (April 3-6, 2025).

Permissible Uses of Robert Lemelson Foundation Fellowship Funding:

Funding is typically for summer research and will fund research conducted **prior to** September 1, 2025. Financial support can be requested to support all travel expenses, including airfare, ground transportation, and visa application fees; living expenses and housing; fieldwork expenses such as gifts for participants, translator and field assistant fees; and all other reasonable and justified expenses. Funds may not be used to pay for graduate school tuition or durable equipment, such as computers, cameras, or digital voice recorders. Budgets must include financial support up to a maximum of \$800 to attend 2025 SPA Biennial Meeting.

Funding cannot be used to support language training in more commonly taught languages, such as Spanish, French and Arabic. Some funding can be used to support language instruction for languages where formal instruction is limited, but the focus of the project should be on pursuing exploratory research rather than strictly language instruction. Funding can be used for methods training, but the methods in question must be tied directly to the exploratory research project and it will be this project that is the focus of the selection committee's review. Proposals for general methods or statistical training, for example, are unlikely to be funded.

We expect to fund proposals between \$3,000 and \$6,000. You may request a larger amount than the stated limit, but it is very unlikely that an award over \$6,000 will be made.

Application components:

This application will include 5 total components, 4 to be submitted by the applicant, and 1 by their recommender. The 4 components submitted by the applicant should all be combined within a single PDF file with your last name followed by RLF 2025, i.e. "Smith_RLF 2025."

(1) *Application form*: Download the fellowship application form from the SPA/Robert Lemelson Foundation Fellowship tab on the SPA website, complete the form using Adobe Acrobat or Reader.

(2) *Project statement*: In 750 - 1,000 words (excluding references), please describe the specific research activities or training that you will carry out with support from the SPA/Robert Lemelson Foundation Fellowship. Explain your research aims and activities, including any preliminary data you will collect and analyses you are considering. Please specify the ways in which this preliminary research and/or methods training has the potential to make your dissertation research more successful. Please indicate whether you have ever spent time in the field site in question. If so, please indicate the length of time and experience you have there, and how this period of research will be different from previous visits. Your proposal should specifically address how your research program has the potential to advance the field of psychological anthropology. The statement should be single-spaced and use a 12-point font and one-inch margins on all sides. Any references included should be narrowly focused and should not exceed 300 words.

(3) *Brief curriculum vitae*: In one single-spaced page, provide details on your education with dates of enrollment; any research funding, fellowships, and awards you may have received, including amounts and dates, and any academic publications and presentations you may have completed. Include details on prior employment, volunteer work, and other experience only if it is directly relevant to the proposed research. Other information, such as teaching experience, should not be included.

(4) *Budget and budget justification*: In one single-spaced page, provide a detailed and specific budget with justification for the items and amounts included. Justification should include mention of how costs were estimated. Your budget must include support up to \$800 for attendance at either the 2025 SPA Biennial meeting, and this amount can be listed as a single item in your budget.

In addition, your application must also include a letter of recommendation sent directly from your recommender:

(5) *Letter of recommendation*: Applicants must obtain a letter written in support of their application from a faculty member familiar with their work and research aspirations. Normally, this will be the chair of the student's graduate research advisory committee. Please provide the attached information sheet (see below) to the individual who is writing the letter. It is the applicant's responsibility to be sure that the letter is received by the deadline. Incomplete applications will not be reviewed. Only one letter of recommendation will be accepted.

As you prepare your application materials, we encourage you to become familiar with your institution's Institutional Review Board requirements for your research and to begin preparing your IRB protocol. Planning ahead in this way will help to ensure that, if your proposed research is funded, you will not experience delays with beginning your fieldwork.

Deadline and submission details:

Deadline for application submission: **November 1, 2024.**

Your application should consist of a single combined PDF file that contains **all four components** from the applicant, as described above. Please label the PDF with your last name followed by RLF 2025, i.e. "Smith_RLF 2025."

To submit your application, please send the file as an attachment to the SPA Secretary, Bridget M. Haas (bmh7@case.edu) by the deadline. Applications received after this time and date will not be reviewed.

We expect to contact awardees by **mid** January 2025. Please contact SPA Secretary, Bridget M. Haas (bmh7@case.edu) with questions or if there are any changes to your application after you submit, such as receipt of other funding.

The Society for Psychological Anthropology / Robert Lemelson Foundation Fellowship Program

Letter of Recommendation

Your graduate student is applying for a SPA/ Robert Lemelson Foundation Fellowship, which is designed to provide students working in the field of psychological anthropology with funding to pursue exploratory research for planning their doctoral dissertation research and / or methods training to prepare for their dissertation research. Research projects supported by the funding should have the potential of advancing the field of psychological anthropology. Normally, fellows receive their awards after their first or second year of graduate training as they develop their dissertation research projects. Funds cannot be used to collect data for the student's master's thesis or doctoral dissertation.

We ask that you complete a letter of recommendation in support of the student and their proposed research project. In the letter, please describe the circumstances under which you have come to know about the applicant's academic potential. You may wish to discuss the applicant's academic strengths and weaknesses, their relative success in meeting degree progress timelines, professional accomplishments to date, and career goals. Please evaluate the importance of the work they propose to do, and the likelihood that the award will lead to a stronger dissertation. These awards are specifically intended to further research in psychological anthropology, so please be sure to indicate how the student's proposed project may do so.

You may submit your letter via email as a PDF or MS Word document to the SPA Secretary, Bridget M. Haas (bmh7@case.edu). The deadline for receipt of your letter is **November 1, 2024**. This is a hard deadline, and unfortunately incomplete applications will not be reviewed. All letters of reference will be kept strictly confidential.

We know that writing letters of recommendation requires considerable work. On behalf of the SPA/ Robert Lemelson Foundation Student Fellowship Committee, thank you for your efforts in facilitating the application review process.