Classical and Ancient Near Eastern Studies, Ph.D.

Funding

Graduate School Resources

Resources to help you afford graduate study might include assistantships, fellowships, traineeships, and financial aid. Further funding information (https://grad.wisc.edu/funding/) is available from the Graduate School. Be sure to check with your program for individual policies and restrictions related to funding.

Program Resources

The Department of Classical and Ancient Near Eastern Studies works to support all graduate students in good standing who continue to make satisfactory progress toward their degree. The department makes every attempt to distribute its resources as fairly as possible outside of guaranteed support offers. Thus, it is the department’s intention to give the maximum number of graduate students in the program an opportunity to hold teaching assistantships (TA) consistent with the department’s needs and criteria. It should be remembered that teaching funds are variable, depending on budget and class enrollments. All students are encouraged to pursue opportunities for support outside the department at all stages of their study. Details can be found below.

Teaching Assistantships

Criteria: Teaching assistant appointments will be offered to eligible graduate students on the basis of the following criteria: contractual obligations made to the student, satisfactory progress towards degree, satisfactory student evaluations and faculty teaching observations, departmental judgment of the student’s qualification to teach scheduled courses, and availability of budgeted positions.

Eligibility: To be eligible to become a teaching assistant, graduate students should ordinarily meet the following requirements: students should be enrolled in the Classics graduate program (exceptions will be made due to lack of qualified or available students), students should be making satisfactory progress towards an advanced degree, and students should not have exceeded the limited allotment of teaching within the department (five years after the BA or three years after the MA).

Students who are non-native speakers of English must complete the SPEAK test for assessing English proficiency. The SPEAK test is the institutional version of the Test of Spoken English (TSE), which is administered by the Educational Testing Service. The SPEAK test measures oral proficiency and is frequently used to evaluate the spoken English of international TAs. The test is available only to students holding or under consideration for a teaching assistantship. For information and scheduled tests, please consult the English as a Second Language website (https://esl.wisc.edu/testinginformation/). Students must achieve a score of 45 or higher before being placed in the classroom.

Class Assignments: Class assignments are made by the department chair in consultation with department faculty with consideration of the following items in order of importance: previous positive assessment of teaching ability, fair rotation of teaching among qualified graduate students, background and experience of the TA in course materials, the need for graduate students to have a variety of teaching experiences, the preference of the TA, and the preference of the instructor.

Training Program: All TAs are required to attend the department’s annual Graduate Student Orientation and Teaching Assistant Workshop. Subjects discussed in the department’s annual workshop include preparation, organization, sensitivity to ethnic and gender issues, and pedagogical methods. Experienced TAs are encouraged to share successful teaching methods and ideas with the group in an open discussion. Information is also provided on such university resources as the Writing Center.

New TAs are also required to attend the L&S Teaching Assistant Workshop and the Graduate Assistants Equity Workshop (https://diversity.wisc.edu/graduate-assistants-equity-workshops/) within the first two semesters of teaching appointments. In addition, for TAs with a first-time Communication B appointment, the Writing Across the Curriculum Communication B Training workshop (https://dept.writing.wisc.edu/wac/wac-comm-b-training/) will also be required. TAs are also encouraged to take advantage of the writing workshops offered by the Writing Center at the start of the academic year and throughout each semester.

For each course, the TA must meet with the professor to outline the goals and objectives of the course, the exam and grading procedures, the syllabus and assigned readings, and specific pedagogical methods appropriate for the course. The syllabus of each course should include the name, office number, and phone number, of the supervising professor, the TA, and the current department chair. Should there be concerns about the course that the TA feels unable to address, he or she can refer students to the professor in charge of the course for initial consultation. Regular meetings between the TA and the professor are held throughout the semester to discuss the progress and success of the course.

Review: Within the first few weeks of class, the supervising professor will observe the TA, with new TAs being a priority. After the visit, the professor will discuss the strengths and weaknesses of the class and put forward a set of recommendations for further teaching development. A written evaluation, to be discussed in person, is then provided to the department chair and will be placed in the student’s file. If the chair deems necessary, a second faculty member will make an additional classroom observation with a written evaluation. At the end of each semester or course, student evaluations for the TA classes are to be completed and kept on file in the department for future reference.

Workload/Percentage of Appointment: Teaching assistantship appointments are percentage based. All CANES appointments are 50% which corresponds to the total expected hours of work throughout the course of the semester. Each TA will receive a breakdown of expected workload with their official appointment letter. The TA is expected to review and discuss the workload with the supervising faculty member of the course. By signing and returning the workload to the department administrator, the TA is accepting his or her appointment for the semester.

Stipend & Benefits: Please review the Graduate School’s resource webpage, Graduate Assistantships (https://grad.wisc.edu/funding/graduate-assistantships/), for details.
DEPARTMENTAL TRAVEL SUPPORT

Eligibility Guidelines: The CANES department can provide some funding for Classics students who are presenting a paper addressing a topic in the classics field or interviewing for hire. Applicable conferences include the SCS, AIA, and CAMWS, but other conferences such as graduate student colloquia will also be considered. First-time recipients of this award may be asked to present a departmental Pillinger Talk in preparation for their conference presentation.

All applications for department travel must be supported by satisfactory progress in the student’s program. Graduate students may submit one request for travel support to the department per academic year. Every attempt will be made to fund student travel up to a maximum of $750. Students should recognize that funding is based on availability. The Fellowships Committee will assess the validity of all applications and determine the amount of each individual award if granted.

Before requesting travel funds from the department, graduate students should conduct due diligence to learn about and apply for travel awards offered by other units (Graduate School, ASM, etc.) at UW–Madison and by sponsors of the event for which travel funds are requested. Evidence of awards applied for and/or received should accompany all requests for department travel funding. Being competitive for awards outside the department is a matter of professional development.

Application: Having applied for travel awards and supplements from external sources, students should then petition the CANES department for travel support. All petitions are considered on a case by case basis and evaluated on the basis of academic merit and satisfactory progress in the graduate program.

Petitions should take form of a letter addressed to the chair of the graduate Fellowships Committee detailing the title of the talk, proof of acceptance, the date and place of the conference, and any other relevant information. All petitions should include a budget and should disclose details of awards or denial of funding from other sources.

Awards from other sources will not necessarily disqualify students from classics department funding. The applications will be read and voted on by the committee which will attempt to respond to requests in a timely fashion. The student will be notified in writing by the chair of the committee normally within a few weeks of the submission of application.

Since applications will be read on a rolling basis and funds are usually more plentiful at the beginning of the year, students are encouraged to apply early.

OTHER FUNDING OPTIONS

The Graduate School provides additional information helpful to graduate students in need of funding.

Find information about:

Types of funding available (https://grad.wisc.edu/studentfunding/types/)

Funding for international students (https://iss.wisc.edu/students/new-students/funding-scholarships/)

• Center for Jewish Studies (https://jewishstudies.wisc.edu/students/scholarships/)
• Dana-Allen Dissertation Fellowship (https://irh.wisc.edu/staff-type/dana-allen-dissertation-fellowships/)
• Robert J. Reinhold Dissertation Fellowship in Classics (https://irh.wisc.edu/irh-fellowships/)

External funding options (https://grad.wisc.edu/funding/fellowships/)

• American Association of University Women (http://www.aauw.org/what-we-do/educational-funding-and-awards/)
• American Council of Learned Societies (http://www.acls.org/programs/comps/)
• Archaeological Institute of America (https://www.archaeological.org/grants/)
• Classical Association of the Middle West and South (https://camws.org/awards/)
• Dolores Zohrab Liebmann Fund (http://fdnewb.org/liebmann/) (specific to Armenian studies)
• Gorgias Press (https://www.gorgiaspress.com/awards/)
• Jacob K. Javits Fellowship Program (https://www2.ed.gov/programs/jacobjavits/) (US Dept of Ed)
• Society for Classical Studies (https://classicalstudies.org/awards-fellowships/)
• Woodrow Wilson Dissertation Fellowship in Women’s Studies (http://woodrow.org/fellowships/womens-studies/)
RESEARCH TRAVEL AWARDS

Research travel awards (https://grad.wisc.edu/studentfunding/grantscomp/research/) available through the Graduate School

Albright Institute of Archeological Research (http://www.aiar.org/available-fellowships/)

American Academy in Rome (http://www.aarome.org/apply/affiliated-fellowships/)

Rome Prize (http://www.aarome.org/apply/)

American Center of Oriental Research (https://acorjordan.org/fellowships-2/)

American Council of Learned Societies (http://www.acls.org/programs/comps/)

American School of Classical Studies at Athens (https://www.ascsa.edu.gr/fellowships-and-grants/graduate-and-postdoctoral/)

American Schools of Oriental Research (https://www.asor.org/fellowships/) 

Biblical Archaeological Society Dig Scholarships (https://www.biblicalarchaeology.org/digs/)

Chateaubriand Fellowship (https://www.chateaubriand-fellowship.org/)

Classical Association of the Middle West and South (https://camws.org/awards/)

German Academic Exchange Service (https://www.daad.org/en/find-funding/) (DAAD)

Getty Foundation (http://www.getty.edu/foundation/apply/)

Harvard Society of Fellows (https://socfell.fas.harvard.edu/about/)

Lady Davis Fellowship Trust (http://ldft.huji.ac.il/)

The Palestine Exploration Fund (http://www.pef.org.uk/grants/)

Royal Historical Society (http://royalhistsoc.org/grants/research-expenses/research-expenses-for-overseas-students-guidelines/)

Marshall & Centenary Fellowships (http://royalhistsoc.org/grants/marshall-centenary-fellowships/)

Mary Isabel Sibley Fellowship (https://www.pbk.org/sibley/)

Society for Classical Studies (https://classicalstudies.org/awards-fellowships/)

The department annually offers graduate fellowship support and teaching assistantships. In order for incoming students to be considered for fellowships, applications and all other materials should reach the department by January 5.