



UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH CAROLINA PRESIDENTIAL TEACHING FELLOWSHIP IN SOCIAL ADVOCACY AND ETHICAL LIFE

January 2012

2012 Fellowships for Current Doctoral Students

The *USC Presidential Teaching Fellowship* provides generous support to doctoral students interested in inquiry and teaching that explores the relationship between spoken and written discourse practices and the development of moral systems and socio-political frameworks of ethical engagement.

How are values created, challenged, and revised through social, political, and institutional forms of advocacy? What is the power and value of advocacy in contemporary society? These questions are as timely as they are old. Just as the ancients devoted great energy to understanding the connections between public debate and moral judgment, contemporary society is often defined by controversies that demonstrate the fundamental and uneasy relationship between the power of advocacy and the potential of ethical life. Civic discourse is not always civil. In politics, reason and faith-based appeals compete, often to the point of provoking violence. There is disagreement about how to define and enable productive and ethical norms of political, legal, and social argumentation. Technological innovation has changed modes of engagement in complex and uncertain ways. The possibilities of global interaction do not come with an assurance of equal access or meaningful understanding. Culture wars seem to pit historical norms and traditions against the creative expression of new forms of individual and collective life.

The *USC Presidential Teaching Fellowship* is keyed to a set of theoretical and practical problems that have long concerned the liberal arts. Dedicated to promoting inquiry that draws from and informs different disciplinary interests in the humanities and social sciences, the fellowship program offers doctoral students an opportunity to both undertake specialized scholarship in their field of interest and engage in directed interdisciplinary inquiry and teaching.

Who is eligible for a fellowship?

The USC Teaching Fellows come from a wide variety of departments and hold a diverse set of intellectual interests and perspectives. To be eligible for a 2012 Teaching Fellowship, a nominee must currently be a first-year doctoral student in good standing within a PhD-granting department or unit in the liberal arts. This includes the doctoral programs in Anthropology, Comparative Literature, Criminal Justice, English Language and Literature, History, Linguistics, Philosophy, Political Science, Sociology, and Spanish.

What are the fellowship's benefits and opportunities?

Teaching Fellows will receive four years of support, including a teaching stipend (at a rate consistent with their home department's funding rate for a 2/2 teaching load), tuition abatement, and a one-semester release from teaching duties in Fall 2012. Fellows are also eligible for summer teaching opportunities offered by the fellowship program.

In Fall 2012, Teaching Fellows will receive a release from their normal teaching and/or research assistant duties. They will continue course work and enroll in the Teaching Fellowship Seminar. Here, they will work with other Fellows and a variety of faculty to investigate the theoretical and practical linkages of advocacy and ethics, at the same time that they prepare to teach a course that fulfills the Carolina Core's requirements for oral communication and values, ethics, and social responsibility. Beginning in Spring 2013, Teaching Fellows will teach two sections of this Carolina Core Course for six semesters. For one other semester in residence, Teaching Fellows will undertake teaching duties as determined by their home department.

Throughout their doctoral studies, Teaching Fellows participate in the Social Advocacy and Ethical Life Colloquium, an ongoing series that supports professionalization and builds intellectual community through the presentation of student research and close interaction with faculty and notable visiting scholars from a variety of fields.

What are the nomination procedures for the fellowship?

Current doctoral students interested in receiving a Teaching Fellowship must be nominated by their home department. If you are interested in being nominated or would like more information about the fellowship, contact your department's Director of Graduate Studies.

Nomination dossiers must include five (5) paper copies of the following material: 1) nominee's completed and signed "Request for Nomination" form; 2) nominee's (1-2 page) statement of interest, along with the names and contact details of three references, including the nominee's USC faculty advisor/mentor and, if applicable, a faculty member with whom the nominee has worked in classroom settings; 3) USC transcript (unofficial); 4) documentation of proficiency in spoken and written English; 5) a letter from the department/unit's Chair that includes confirmation of the nominee's good standing, documentation of teaching experience at USC, and expressed commitment to the terms of the Teaching Fellowship.

Nominations for must be received by 5 p.m. on 15 February 2012. Fellowship competition results will be announced on 30 March 2012.