



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

January 2012

2012 Teaching Fellowships for Incoming 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. In 2012, USC will award up to ten fellowships to incoming doctoral students in the liberal arts. This includes students in Anthropology, Comparative Literature, Criminal Justice, English Language and Literature, History, Philosophy, Political Science, Sociology, and Spanish.

To be eligible for a Teaching Fellowship, students must have applied to a PhD program beginning in August 2012 and fulfilled all department and Graduate School criteria for admission. Successful nominees will have outstanding academic credentials, including a cumulative undergraduate GPA of 3.6 and GRE scores that demonstrate exceptional (>650) verbal and/or quantitative aptitude.

What are the fellowship's benefits and opportunities?

Teaching Fellows receive five years of support, including a \$22,000 stipend and full tuition abatement. Fellows will also be eligible to undertake summer teaching.

In their first semester, Teaching Fellows begin their doctoral coursework and undertake teaching and/or research duties as determined by their home department. In their second semester, Fellows continue with coursework, receive a full release from teaching, and participate in the Teaching Fellowship Seminar. In this seminar, Fellows work together and with a variety of faculty members to investigate the theoretical and practical linkages of advocacy and ethics at the same time that they prepare to teach a course that provides USC undergraduates with foundational training in oral communication and values, ethics, and social responsibility. In the semester after completing the Teaching Fellowship Seminar, Fellows continue their doctoral studies and teach two sections of this Carolina Core course for seven semesters. For one other semester in residence, Fellows undertake research and teaching as determined by their home department.

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

What are the nomination procedures for the fellowship?

Students applying for doctoral study at USC beginning in August 2012 must be nominated by the department to which they are applying for admission. If you are interested in being nominated or would like more information about the fellowship, contact the department's Director of Graduate Studies.

Nominations received by 15 February 2012 will receive full consideration.