



Christine Downing Dissertation Fellowship

2025 Guidelines and Application Instructions

www.opusarchives.org/fellowship

The Christine Downing Dissertation Fellowship is a scholarship awarded to dissertation students in the fields of depth psychology and/or mythology from any accredited graduate level institution. The Fellowship carries the name of Professor Downing in acknowledgement of her contribution to the fields of depth psychology and mythology, her many years of teaching at Pacifica Graduate Institute, and her gift to OPUS of her own archival materials. The purpose of the Downing Fellowship is to award \$5,000 for dissertation research.

Once awarded, the winning student ("Fellow") must use the collections at OPUS for a significant amount of their dissertation research.

The collections available for research at OPUS include the book collection and artifacts of Joseph Campbell, archival and book collections of Marija Gimbutas, and archival collections of James Hillman, Jane and Joseph Wheelwright, Christine Downing, Marion Woodman, Adolf Guggenbühl-Craig, Katie Sanford, and Robert Johnson, among others. For more information on these scholars visit our website at www.opusarchives.org/collections.

GUIDELINES

Fellowship Guidelines may have changed from previous years – please read

Award Amount: \$5,000

Deadline for Submission: All application materials must be received by 5:00 p.m. PST on Friday, March 21, 2025.

Eligibility Requirements:

- Be a student in a doctoral program of any accredited institution writing a dissertation within the fields of depth psychology and/or mythology
- Demonstrate the necessity of substantial on-site use of OPUS' collections
- Have an approved concept paper
- Have a confirmed dissertation chair

Duration of Fellowship: Requires forty (40) hours of research in the Archives. These funds are for one (1) year of research to be conducted between May 15, 2025 and May 15, 2026. Failure to complete the following two stages within this timeframe could result in forfeiture of award funds.

There are 2 stages by which the Fellowship is completed:

- First stage: Preliminary award in the amount of \$2,500 with an approved concept paper and/or first chapter of dissertation, and a confirmed dissertation chair. The Fellow is expected to conduct half (20 hours) of their required time doing active research in the Archives at this stage.
- Second stage: Upon submission of an approved dissertation proposal and/or first two chapters of dissertation (which has been accepted by students' dissertation committee) the remaining Fellowship monies, \$2,500, will be disbursed and the student will then complete the remaining twenty (20) hours of active research in the Archives.

Selection Process: Proposals will be screened by OPUS staff for eligibility. Review and final selection will be conducted by the OPUS Archives Downing Fellowship Committee.

Notification of Award: April 30, 2025

If you have further questions after reviewing the CDDF Guidelines or the following Application pages, please email info@opusarchives.org

APPLICATION INSTRUCTIONS

Eligible Candidates: Students in doctoral programs writing within the fields of depth psychology and mythology with an approved concept paper. The student must plan to use the collections at OPUS for a significant amount of their research.

Application materials checklist (See further details and instructions below)

- ___ 1) Applicant Information
- ___ 2) Proposal
- ___ 3) Timeline

Supporting Documents

- ___ 4) Curriculum Vitae
- ___ 5) Approved concept paper and/or first chapter of dissertation

Sealed Documents

- ___ 6) Graduate transcript
- ___ 7) Two letters of recommendation (Chair and other qualified referee)

Materials for all seven (7) application components for the Christine Downing Dissertation Fellowship must be received by 5:00 p.m. PST on March 21, 2025.

1) Applicant Information

Maximum one (1) page containing the following information (no specific format required):

- Your contact information including your name, mailing address, email address, and telephone number
- Graduate school information including the name of your school, major, dissertation title and dissertation committee Chair with contact information

2) Proposal

Maximum two (2) pages describing your proposed research project in the Archives:

- Discuss specific collection materials and their relevance to the project, as well as how you envision the use of OPUS' archives as specifically supporting your dissertation. (Public Database: www.opusarchives.org/databases-2)
- It is expected that submissions will entail a scholarly exploration into original patterns of thought in depth psychology and/or mythology.
- Finalists will be judged on quality of composition and development, clarity of thought, and originality of ideas within these fields.
- Additionally, explorations into the archival collections at OPUS must be a core element of the overall research.

3) Timeline

Maximum one (1) page containing a timeline of your dissertation work including:

- The start date and expected completion of your dissertation



- An anticipated schedule of research in the Archives between May 15, 2025 and May 15, 2026

Please note that appointments in the Archives are available Monday through Thursday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. **Days and Hours may be subject to change during the CDDF 2025-2026 research period.**

Supporting Documents:

4) Curriculum Vitae

5) Approved Concept paper and/or first chapter of dissertation

Your Applicant Information, Proposal, Timeline, and Supporting Documents must be submitted together in one email and be received by 5:00 p.m. PST on March 21, 2025. OPUS will acknowledge the receipt of complete applications by email. Please submit your application and any questions to info@opusarchives.org.

Sealed Documents:

6) Graduate School Transcript

Submit an official sealed transcript from your institution. Official transcripts should be mailed to OPUS Archives at the address below. Faxed and emailed transcripts will not be accepted. Your official transcript must be received by 5:00 p.m. PST on March 21, 2025.

Sealed transcripts should be mailed to:

OPUS Archives
Attn: CDDF
801 Ladera Lane
Santa Barbara, CA 93108

7) Letters of Recommendation (LOR)

Two (2) confidential letters of recommendation – one from your dissertation Chair and the other from an individual who is qualified to judge your dissertation and research proposal. The LORs should address why the dissertation project is important and why the student is qualified to do the project. Referees should mail your LORs directly to the address below. Faxed and emailed letters will not be accepted. Your LORs must be received by 5:00 p.m. PST on March 21, 2025.

Letters should be mailed by the referees to:

OPUS Archives
Attn: CDDF
801 Ladera Lane
Santa Barbara, CA 93108

Award Announcement: The award will be announced by April 30, 2025.



The fellowship awardee and their dissertation project will be acknowledged in OPUS publicity.

Final Research: All Fellows are asked to submit a copy of their dissertation to OPUS when completed.

Summary of Important Dates:

- Deadline: March 21, 2025 for all seven (7) components
- Award Notification: April 30, 2025
- Research Period: May 15, 2025 through May 15, 2026

OPUS Archives and Research Center is a non-profit research center that houses collections of Joseph Campbell, Marija Gimbutas, James Hillman, Jane and Joseph Wheelwright, Christine Downing, Marion Woodman, Adolf Guggenbühl-Craig, Robert Johnson, and Katie Sanford, among others. In addition to safeguarding these important resources, OPUS works to foster ongoing research in the fields of depth psychology and mythological studies.

801 Ladera Lane | Santa Barbara, CA 93108 | Phone 805-969-5750

OPUS Archives and Administrative offices are open Monday through Thursday from 10:00am to 5:00pm, by appointment