

University of California
Berkeley



410 Social Sciences Building
Berkeley, CA 94720-1980
510 642-4766
510 642-0659 fax
sociology.berkeley.edu

Department of Sociology

April 4, 2022

This is an updated letter detailing the Chancellor's Fellowship. This replaces our earlier letter dated March 10th, 2022.

Dear Diego Ayala,

Congratulations again on your admission to the Sociology Ph.D. program! I am delighted to offer you six-year financial package which includes the **Chancellor's Fellowship**. The **Chancellor's Fellowship** is the centerpiece of a six-year financial package that the department has put together to allow you to flourish during your graduate studies at Berkeley.

Let me summarize the overall package:

- 2022-23 \$29,000 stipend plus tuition, registration fees & health benefits
\$5,000 summer funding
\$1,000 Relocation Grant
\$4,000 graduate student research (GSR), summer 2022 Professor Laura Enriquez
- 2023-24 \$29,000 stipend plus tuition, fees & health benefits
\$5,000 summer funding and \$1,500 Department Research Grant
- 2024-25 \$29,000 GSI salary+stipend, tuition, fees & health benefits
\$5,000 summer funding
- 2025-26 \$29,000 GSI salary+stipend, tuition, fees & health benefits
\$5,000 summer funding and \$1,500 Department Research grant
- 2026-27 \$29,000 Lowenthal Normative Time Fellowship & GSI position salary, tuition, fees, and health benefits
\$5,000 summer funding
- 2028-29 Doctoral Completion Fellowship from Graduate Division
\$1,000 departmental ASA job market travel grant

Now let me elaborate on each year:

For your first year and second years, the **Chancellor's Fellowship** will provide a full fellowship with no teaching obligations in the amount of \$29,000 for the 9-month academic year, plus an additional \$5,000 for the summer which you can use for living expenses and research travel. You will thus receive \$34,000 for the year. The Chancellor's Fellowship also covers in-state tuition and fees, health and dental insurance, and a mass transit pass. The fellowship will further cover your non-resident supplemental tuition the first year if you are not currently a California resident. ***You MUST obtain California***

residency by your second year to avoid being responsible for non-resident supplemental tuition in subsequent years.

All U.S. citizens and Permanent Residents are expected to establish California residency at the end of their first year of study and to maintain residency throughout their studies. NRST will not be provided for students beyond year one. Information regarding residency status is available at the Office of the Registrar's website: registrar.berkeley.edu.

The fellowship also comes with a one-time, first-year only relocation stipend of \$1,000, and priority for housing in the brand new [Intersection Apartments](#) or [Jackson Graduate House Apartments](#). Spaces are limited, so apply early; your name will be sent to Housing after April 15, 2022 for prioritization.

For your third, and fourth years, the Department will guarantee you a Sociology teaching assistantship (in our parlance, Graduate Student Instructor or GSI position) in both the fall and spring semesters. The position will cover your tuition, fees, and health benefits. If necessary, the Department will supplement your GSI salary (at a 50% appointment) to guarantee funding at the level of your original fellowship (\$29,000 per year). That is, the Department will cover any shortfall between our guarantee and your two-semester GSI salary up to \$29,000. We will also offer you \$5,000 in summer funding in your third and fourth years for research or living expenses. In addition, the department will provide you with a Department Research Grant in the summers of year 2 and 4 in the amount of \$1,500. We anticipate that these might be years that you will be doing field, archival or other research that necessitates travel, or that you may attend the professional meetings to share your MA or dissertation research. To access this grant, you will submit a proposal outlining how you will use the funds, which will be approved by the Committee on Academic Progress (CAP).

For your fifth year, we expect to grant you a Lowenthal Chair's Normative Time Fellowship for one semester; this would offer a semester stipend of \$14,500 and cover in-state fees and tuition. For the other semester we would guarantee you a GSI position, and again cover any difference between your GSI salary and \$14,500 to ensure \$29,000 for the academic year. We will also offer you \$5,000 in summer funding in your fifth year for research or living expenses. Note that the Lowenthal Fellowship *requires that you teach for two semesters prior to accepting the award and that you advance to candidacy on time* (that is, in "normative time") by completing your Qualifying Exams and securing approval of your dissertation proposal by the end of your fourth year in the program. We are confident that you can reach this normative time benchmark. You may take the Lowenthal in either semester of your 5th year.

For your sixth year, you will be eligible for the Doctoral Completion Fellowship (DCF) offered by the Graduate Division. This is a full-year fellowship with no obligations except to work on completing your dissertation. For further information about the DCF, please refer <https://grad.berkeley.edu/policy/degrees-policy/#f31-doctoral-completion-fellowship-dcf>.

Conference and Research Travel Grants. As outlined above, the department will provide \$1,500 in the summers following your 2nd and 4th years to cover conference and research travel. In addition, Sociology offers a \$1,000 ASA conference travel grant the year you go on the academic job market, if that is the career path you choose. The grant facilitates attendance at the American Sociological Association meetings so that you can present dissertation research and meet with prospective employers. And the Berkeley Graduate Division offers conference grants twice during a doctoral student's career to attend an academic conference to present research. These conference grants are currently for up to \$600 within California, \$900 elsewhere in North America (including Canada and Mexico), and \$1,500 outside of North America. For further information, please refer to this link: <https://grad.berkeley.edu/resource/conference-travel-grants/>

All funding is contingent upon you making satisfactory academic progress towards completion of the Ph.D. degree, including both research and teaching.

Additional Fellowship and Research Funding: We also strongly encourage you to apply for fellowships and research support from other units on campus and extra-mural funds beyond Berkeley. There are many opportunities that would allow you to swap out a semester of teaching with a fellowship or outside grant, or to win additional dissertation or pre-dissertation research funding. For example, our Ph.D. students have been extremely successful in receiving prestigious National Science Foundation Graduate Fellowships (\$34,000/year for three years). From 2001 to 2021, NSF awarded Berkeley Sociology students an impressive 78 fellowships, almost double that of the next highest competitor.

Finally, it is possible to work as a “reader” (just grading for courses, but not teaching discussion sections) or as a part-time Graduate Student Researcher (GSR, Berkeley’s language for a Research Assistant) with a faculty member in Sociology or another department. Being a reader above 25% time covers tuition and fees and offers a salary based on the number of students for whom you grade. Some GSR positions cover fees and tuition in addition to paying a salary; other times students combine income from GSR appointments with fellowship stipends or readerships within the department to cover fees. We encourage you to talk to faculty about GSR research opportunities. Not only do they offer financial support, but they also provide valuable training in research skills and the academic profession.

I hope that you find this package attractive, not only based on the financial support we are offering but also as a program of professional development that encourages the cultivation of teaching experience, grant-writing and research apprenticeship.

In closing, let me reiterate the Department’s collective enthusiasm in having you attend Berkeley. Berkeley Sociology is home to truly outstanding Ph.D. students and faculty who offer a vibrant intellectual life in the department. The past is not necessarily a guide for the future, but I am proud that 8 UC Berkeley students have won the American Sociological Association’s “Best Dissertation Award” between 1989-2021, the highest number of award winners as compared to any other sociology program. The University also boasts stellar scholars across the other social sciences and commands all the intellectual resources one would expect at a world-class research university – plus we are located in a culturally and politically fascinating area surrounded by a wondrous natural environment. You can thus grow intellectually and become a stellar scholar, all the while enjoying the riches of the University and the area.

I very much hope that you will decide to join the Berkeley Sociology Ph.D. program. If you have any questions or concerns about this letter or other aspect of our program, please do not hesitate to contact me at dharding@berkeley.edu

Sincerely,

David Hardling
Professor, Sociology, University of California, Berkeley
Chair, Graduate Admissions Committee