

**UNDERSTANDING RELIGIOUS FREEDOM:
STUDIES ON THE CAUSES AND CONSEQUENCES OF RELIGIOUS LIBERTY**

Religious Freedom Project Graduate Summer Research Fellowship

APPLICATION DEADLINE: January 19, 2016

The Religious Freedom Project at Georgetown University's Berkley Center for Religion, Peace & World Affairs—together with its partner, Baylor University's Institute for Studies of Religion—is offering summer Ph.D. dissertation fellowships for students exploring the sources, development, and consequences of religious freedom. We seek proposals for dissertations that will explore the relationship between religious liberty and other fundamental freedoms; its importance for democracy; and/or its role in social and economic development, international diplomacy, and countering violent religious extremism. Successful proposals will connect the study of religious freedom to other academic disciplines in order to generate new knowledge about the role of religious liberty (or its absence) in (a) the development of political freedom, human rights, and democracy, (b) the promotion of economic freedom, economic development, and economic growth, and/or (c) the elimination, prevention, moderation, or mitigation of religiously-driven extremism and violence.

The Nature of the Awards

Dissertation research/completion fellowships will be awarded for the summer 2016 (May 1-August 31). Awards will amount to up to \$5,000. Awarded funds may be used for travel, research, and living expenses. Fellowship winners will be required to submit a paper detailing research findings, which the RFP may publish online and in project publications. Additionally, winners may be asked to share their work at an RFP-sponsored event after the award period.

Eligibility, Terms, and Conditions

This fellowship is offered to Ph.D. candidates from any college or university. The fellowship is not limited to any single academic discipline or department. Accordingly, candidates from departments across the humanities and social sciences may apply. Guidelines for the research and completion fellowships are below.

Guidelines:

- Completion of all departmental requirements and an approved dissertation prospectus before the start of the award period. A fellowship designee will forfeit the award if the prospectus has not been approved by April 15, 2016.
- Research fellowship winners may do a small amount of teaching or outside work to supplement summer fellowship funding, but such supplementary work must be specified in the cover letter, must not conflict with the Ph.D. research plan, and must be approved by the student's home institution.
- Preference will be given to students who do not have other summer grants or fellowships.

Application Procedures and Schedule

Applications must be submitted by **January 19, 2016** to Nicholas Fedyk, project associate for the Religious Freedom Project (send to: naf28@georgetown.edu). A complete application includes the items listed below, and the RFP needs one digital copy. Please submit materials in the following order:

- A signed cover letter with the following information: a one-paragraph synopsis of your dissertation research; the names of your two recommenders (at least one must be your dissertation advisor and/or a member of your dissertation committee); your planned teaching responsibilities during the fellowship period, if any; any additional or potential sources of research funding for the grant period; and any other information you consider pertinent
- Current resume, not to exceed two pages
- Current transcript
- Statement of purpose (two to four pages, double spaced) clearly describing how the dissertation topic will generate new knowledge about the role of religious freedom, or its absence, in political freedom and democratization, economic freedom and socio-economic development, and/or countering violent religious extremism. There should be a brief indication of your progress to date and timetable for completion. Your statement should also describe the relevance of your summer research plans to the dissertation as a whole and your proposed use of the award.
- A budget outlining how you propose to use the fellowship funds (living, travel, and general research expenses are all allowable) and, if traveling, an itinerary
- A bibliography identifying major primary and secondary sources
- Two letters of recommendation, one of which must be from the dissertation advisor. You may direct recommenders to send their letter to Nicholas Fedyk at the Religious Freedom Project by the deadline:

Nicholas Fedyk
Berkley Center for Religion, Peace & World Affairs
3307 M Street, Suite 200
Washington, D.C. 20007

- Written confirmation from your graduate program coordinator stating that your prospectus was approved or, if your prospectus has not been approved, the anticipated date of approval. This can be submitted via email or mail to the addresses listed above.

An interdisciplinary committee will review all applications during the month of February 2016. Successful candidates will be notified via email by Nicholas Fedyk on or before April 1, 2016.