

### Research Statements and Proposals

An Introduction for Humanists and Social Scientists

**UCHICAGOGRAD** 



- Statements vs. Proposals
- Writing the Research Statement
- Writing the Research Proposal
- What the Committees Seek
- Samples and Discussion



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#### The Ask

- "a statement of research/scholarship interests"
- "a proposal not to exceed 1,500 words, doublespaced, describing the general scope of the project and the specific work proposed during the fellowship term"
- "a statement of current and future research plans"
- "a brief summary of your research interests"
- "a statement of plans for work and their relation to the community's theme"
- "research statement of the project to be undertaken during the fellowship period"
- "a description of research activities"
- "a research **plan** of no more than 2000 words"



# What kind of position are you seeking?

## Who is your audience?



### Statements vs. Proposals

	Research Statement	Research Proposal
Purpose	To apply for tenure-track professorships and VAPs	To apply for predoctoral and postdoctoral fellowships
Scope	Describes past, present, and future scholarship	Proposes project(s) to be completed during a set time period
Topics	Research overview; Past research; Current research; Future research	Research Questions; Argument; Methodology; Timeline; Outputs
Length	1.5 to 2 pages (HUM & SS) 2 to 3 pages (PSYCH)	Varies



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#### **Research Statements**

- Usually 2 pages in length
- Research Statement and your name centered at the top
- Single spaced, with double spacing between paragraphs
- 1" margins and 11-12 pt. font
- Use subheadings for at-a-glance organization
- First-person point of view, with your research as the main character
- Frame your work appropriately, but do not make the statement position-specific





#### Research Statements

### STRUCTURE & CONTENT

- Provide an **overview** of themes, topics, and disciplinary identity
- (Optional) Describe **past research** and publications, if applicable
- The Describe **current research** (dissertation): questions, argument, sources, theory, methodology, findings
- T Describe **current research** (dissertation): contributions, significance, publication trajectory
  - \_\_\_\_\_\_
- Describe **future research**, likely a distinct second project
- $\P$  Conclude with the **significance** and **wider impacts** of your work

# But won't l be repeating my cover letter?



#### Statement vs. Cover Letter

- A research statement expands on the cover letter
- It provides more detail on arguments, methods, and contributions
- Can include **brief** (one- to two-sentence)
  dissertation chapter summaries\*
- Greater focus on the future
- Repeat ideas but do not recycle full sentences

\* Check disciplinary norms.



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### Research Proposals

- Formats vary, so refer to the call for proposals
- Draw upon the same mindset and skills that you used for past grant/fellowship proposals
- Assume a broad, multidisciplinary audience
- Tailor the proposal to each opportunity, speaking to postdoc themes when necessary
- Show why you want to be on a given campus and how you will contribute
- Provide an ambitious yet feasible plan of work, with concrete deliverables



### Research Proposals

The Center for East Asian Studies at Stanford University is pleased to offer a postdoctoral fellowship in Chinese Studies for the 2018-19 academic year. This award is open to scholars in the humanities and social sciences studying any historical period. The fellowship will begin September 1, 2018 and end August 31, 2019, with a 12month stipend of approximately \$60,000. Fellows are required to be in residence in the Stanford area during the appointment period; to teach one course during the academic year; and to participate in all regular Center activities. Stanford University Press will have first right of refusal for manuscripts produced during the postdoctoral appointment.

Step 1: Catch the readers' attention by beginning with a PROBLEM

- Widely recognized and unresolved
- Practical or conceptual
- Related to the fellowship's theme

Step 2: Demonstrate that your research provides a SOLUTION

- Outline core arguments, methodologies, and findings
- Emphasize scholarly contributions and interventions
- Show that the \$\$\$ allows you to do important work

Step 3: Discuss the OUTCOMES of your time at an institution

- Feasible month-by-month plan\*
- Publications and presentations are key
- Contributions to campus, especially teaching

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# What will search committees want to see?

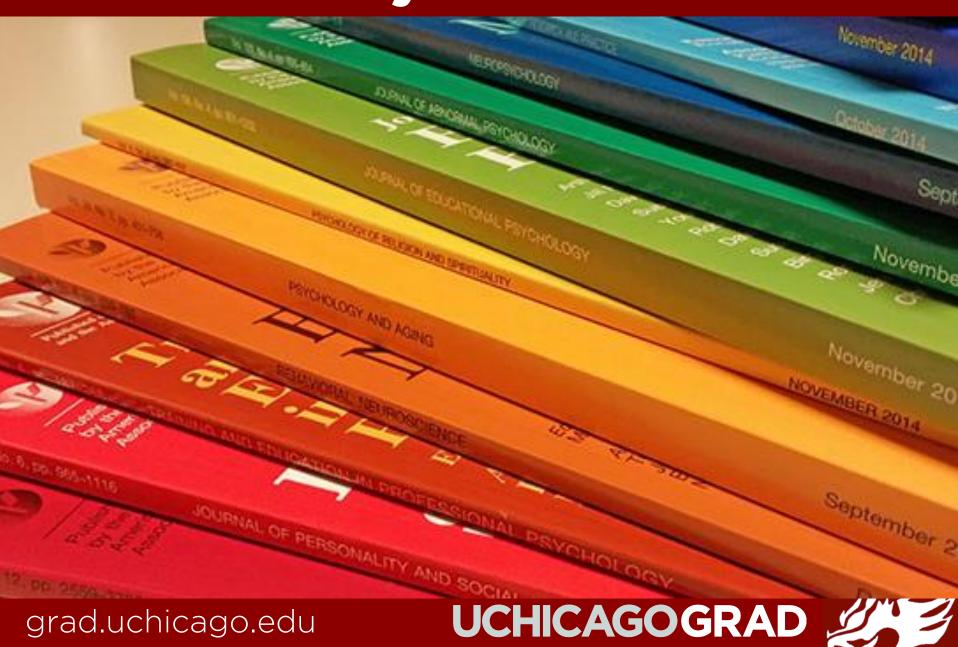
#### **Focus**



## Independence



### **Productivity**



### Impact



### Fit



### A Clear Plan



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#### Questions?

#### **Courtney Wiersema**

> cwiersema@uchicago.edu