Agenda

- 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, double-spaced, 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?
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Purpose</th>
<th>Research Statement</th>
<th>Research Proposal</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>To apply for tenure-track professorships and VAPs</td>
<td>To apply for predoctoral and postdoctoral fellowships</td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Scope</th>
<th>Research Statement</th>
<th>Research Proposal</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Describes past, present, and future scholarship</td>
<td>Proposes project(s) to be completed during a set time period</td>
<td></td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Topics</th>
<th>Research Statement</th>
<th>Research Proposal</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Research overview; Past research; Current research; Future research</td>
<td>Research Questions; Argument; Methodology; Timeline; Outputs</td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Length</th>
<th>Research Statement</th>
<th>Research Proposal</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.5 to 2 pages (HUM &amp; SS) 2 to 3 pages (PSYCH)</td>
<td>Varies</td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>
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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
Once Upon a Time
Provide an overview of themes, topics, and disciplinary identity

(Optional) Describe past research and publications, if applicable

Describe current research (dissertation): questions, argument, sources, theory, methodology, findings

Describe current research (dissertation): contributions, significance, publication trajectory

Describe future research, likely a distinct second project

Conclude with the significance and wider impacts of your work
But won’t I be repeating my 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
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 12-month 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.
Research Proposals

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

grad.uchicago.edu
Independence
Productivity
Impact
A Clear Plan
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Questions?

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