

Some advice for fellowship applicants:

Make sure your application is accurate and complete. If you have doubts about how to answer a question, please don't hesitate to ask me.

The application forms are a great deal alike, but remember that each has slightly different criteria . . . PFF is looking at your teaching future, Mag would have more emphasis on community aspects.

Recommendation letters:

Please ask your faculty to address their recommendation letters specifically to each fellowship. A generic letter is "ok" . . . but letters speaking to how you meet the eligibility requirements are better. What is NOT ok is to use a letter that specifies one fellowship and copy it for all of your other applications.

Provide your faculty a short list of your recent activities and accomplishments to your recommenders would help them out. If they want even more guidance on writing the letter, maybe the following would be helpful:

How long and in what capacity have you known the applicant?

Compared with other graduate students of comparable age and experience known to you, what is your judgment of the applicant with respect to the following characteristics:

- Competence in the major field(s)
- Quality of training in fields related to major subject(s)
- Originality in handling ideas
- Ability to work independently
- Clarity of expression
- Maturity
- Research Potential

Request your recommendation letter with a memo to your faculty giving them your short list, the letter suggestions above and letting them know that the February 1 deadline is firm.

Please remember that if you are applying for the Dissertation Research fellowship, the August 1 deadline will be firm for meeting comprehensive exam dates and dates for plans of study to be on file.