

## APPLYING FOR MEDIEVAL ACADEMY OF AMERICA GRANTS (FOR GRADUATE STUDENTS)

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### WHO IS THIS GUIDE FOR?

This post is meant to serve as a guide for graduate students (mainly advanced PhD students) interested in applying for grants through the Medieval Academy of America. The information here is taken from the various grant pages as they existed on *February 13<sup>th</sup>, 2026*. Be aware that the information may (and likely will) change, so double check the relevant page before submitting!

Full information on grants can be found at the Medieval Academy website: [medievalacademy.org](http://medievalacademy.org). From there you can hover the tab marked “Grants/Awards” and then “Students” to bring up the list of grants.

### HOW TO APPLY:

In order to apply for a grant a student must be a member of the Medieval Academy prior to submission. Student memberships are \$30 per year. Each grant is covered by a specific committee, who make their decisions based on the criteria listed for each grant. In general, the committees look at the cogency of the grant proposal, the necessity of the grant to the proposed project/travel, and the value of the project to the wider field.

When applying for some of the larger grants, keep in mind the requirements not only for yourself but also acquiring letters of recommendation. Talk to your dissertation advisors and letter writers as early as possible, and generally you will want to provide them with an idea of your proposed travel/etc. so that they can adequately discuss your interests and whatever the specific grant is looking for. This means paying close attention to the deadlines and planning ahead.

## WHICH GRANT IS RIGHT FOR ME?

If you are unsure what grant might be most relevant to you, ask yourself what you need money for:

I need money for traveling for research

- Belle Da Costa Greene Award
- Fellows Research Award
- Leyerle-CARA Prize
- MAA Dissertation Grants
- Schallek Awards (for projects dealing with Late Medieval Britain)

I need money to help me present at the annual conference

- Annual Meeting Bursaries
- Inclusivity and Diversity Travel Grant

I need money to support my dissertation research

- Schallek Fellowship (for projects dealing with Late Medieval Britain)
- Birgit Baldwin Fellowship
- MAA Dissertation Grants
- Inclusivity and Diversity Research Grant

I need money to improve my language, manuscript skills, or professional development

- CARA Summer Programs and Tuition Scholarships
- MAA Summer Research and Professional Development Workshop

I need money to implement a program for graduate student medievalists

- MAA/GSC Grant for Innovation in Community Building and Professionalization

## GRANT TYPES AND OVERVIEWS:

The grants available to graduate students can be divided into four (rough) categories: travel/conference grants, dissertation grants, research grants, and summer programs. There is some overlap here because certain grants can be used for multiple types of expenses such as research or travel. I have listed the various grants in these categories with brief descriptions of each. The application deadline is in parentheses. Where possible, I have also included the number of successful applications compared to the total number of applications for the most recent year (2025) as a percentage. The full data can be found in the annual meeting report from the Executive Director, published in *Speculum*. Keep in mind that the number of applications can vary year to year.

### Travel/Conference Grants:

For the travel grants related to research, it is very important to have a clear sense of why this funding is necessary and how the money will be sent. Most require you to submit a budget and explain what other funding sources you have access to.

- Annual Meeting Bursaries (12/31)
  - \$500 to attend the annual meeting, can be applied for only after paper acceptance.
- Inclusivity and Diversity Travel Grant (12/31) (50%)
  - Similar to the bursary but for presenting on diversity and inclusivity in the middle ages at annual meeting.
- Belle Da Costa Greene Award (2/15) (9%)
  - \$2,000 grant for research and travel expenses.
- Fellows Research Award (10/15)
  - two \$5,000 awards for travel/access expenses to consult manuscripts, visit archives, etc.
- Leyerle-CARA Prize (1/31)
  - \$1,000 to support research in Toronto based collections
  - Administered by Toronto

### Dissertation Grants:

Dissertation grants presume an advanced stage of candidacy (after comprehensive exams, successfully proposed project, etc.) but due to the amount of money and time needed, make sure to begin planning well in advance of the deadlines.

- Schallek Fellowship (10/15) (13%)
  - \$40,000 to defray research and living expenses for the equivalent of one academic year
  - Funded by Richard III Society, American Branch for student writing dissertation dealing with Late Medieval Britain
- Birgit Baldwin Fellowship (9/15)
  - \$20,000 to defray research and living expenses for the equivalent of one academic year
  - awarded to a student writing a dissertation on French medieval history that requires sustained research in French archives or libraries
  - This grant can be renewed for a second year, so it is only offered every two years
- MAA Dissertation Grants (2/15) (40%)
  - \$2,000 grants for advanced graduate students for research expenses
  - Students working on Late Medieval Britain should instead apply to the Schallek Award

## Research Grants:

Broader grants that are meant to be used for research expenses.

- Schallek Award (2/15) (83%)
  - Not to be confused with the larger fellowship. This award offers \$5,000 to help defray research expenses (which can include travel)
  - Supports doctoral students writing on Late Medieval Britain (ca. 1350-1500)
- Inclusivity and Diversity Research Grant (12/31) (33%)
  - \$3,000 to support innovative research that broadens the scope of medieval studies
  - Includes projects that focus on non-European and/or topics that fall under the Inclusivity and Diversity Committee

## Summer Programs:

These are slightly different from the other grants because they focus on extra opportunities to learn skills, languages, etc. that are not offered at a home institution. Thus it is important to note in your application how these programs fit into what is available (or not) at the home institution.

- CARA Summer Programs (4/1) (33%)
  - Generally 4-8 awards per year, each award is not typically more than \$1,000
  - Helps participation in summer courses in medieval languages or manuscript studies
- MAA Summer Research (3/1)
  - \$1,500 stipend and one year MAA membership
  - Designed to make you more successful and competitive for grants and academic positions by growing skills, etc.
  - Takes place over 6-8 virtual workshops

## Other:

There is only one grant here, the MAA/GSC Grant for Innovation in Community Building and Professionalization (2/15) (67%). This \$2,000 grant supports an individual or group who seeks to create new and innovative efforts to build communities of graduate student medievalists. Usually only one grant per year, but can be divided at the committee's discretion for multiple projects.