



McCausland College of Arts and Sciences

UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH CAROLINA

Russell J. and Dorothy S. Bilinski Dissertation Fellowship Fellow's Agreement on Use of Fellowship Funds

Instructions to Student: Please read carefully and sign the last page. Your signature confirms your agreement to submit the required reports described below. Please keep a copy of this agreement for your records and make a note of the dates by which the required reports are due and where they are to be sent.

Eligibility Criteria

To be awarded a Bilinski Fellowship, and to remain a Bilinski Fellow, and to be eligible to receive fellowship funds, each student recipient must meet and agree to ALL of the following criteria:

1. Be a full-time doctoral student in a graduate program in the humanities or social sciences, who has passed all qualifying examinations and course requirements at the University of South Carolina, and advanced to candidacy or will advance in the upcoming academic year;
2. Maintain good academic standing at all times;
3. Have demonstrated exceptional ability and potential in your field of study;
4. Be a student who needs financial support to complete your degree;
5. Commit to devoting full-time effort toward dissertation completion for each semester (including summer period) in which Fellowship funds are provided;
6. Not be employed either outside or within the University of South Carolina;
7. Understand and agree that the only fellowship they will hold during the July 1, 2026 – June 30, 2027 Fiscal Year will be the Bilinski Fellowship;
8. Abide by the University of South Carolina Academic Code of Conduct.

Note: Fellowship Funds will **not** be awarded to a candidate whose dissertation has already been substantially completed.

Additional Eligibility Criteria

To be awarded a Fellowship and to remain a Bilinski Fellow, a recipient must – in addition to the eligibility criteria set forth above – be a United States citizen or a Permanent Resident eligible to apply for U.S. citizenship.¹

¹ A Permanent Resident is an alien (immigrant) person who has been granted such status through an immigration process (now handled under Homeland Security), and has been issued a *United States Permanent Residency Card*. This card (informally called Green Card) must be carried at all times. Permanent residents may live and work in the United States, permanently, and males 18-25 must register for selective service system. They cannot vote, hold state or federal public elected offices, or hold federal government jobs. They may apply for citizenship after 5 years of residency (or 3 years if married to a US citizen) and be granted citizenship upon meeting all requirements.

Bilinski Fellow's Agreement to Use of Fellowship Funds

Each Bilinski Fellow must sign a written acknowledgement of, and agreement to, certain terms and conditions of the initial award and ongoing entitlement to fellowship funds, including the following:

1. Acknowledgement by the Bilinski Fellow that they understand that continued receipt of fellowship funds is dependent upon continuing to meet all fellowship criteria listed above.
2. The Bilinski Fellow agrees to inform promptly The University Educational Foundation (via the College of Arts and Sciences) of any change in the Bilinski Fellow's circumstances such that they no longer meet one or more of the criteria above.
3. The Bilinski Fellow understands and agrees that fellowship funds are to be used for the payment, partially or totally, of tuition, fees, books, field research, materials, other educational expenses, and for necessary living expenses. At least annually, they shall confirm in writing that the fellowship funds received during the prior academic year were used for the specified purposes.
4. The Bilinski Fellow understands and agrees that they must devote full-time effort toward dissertation completion during each term that they receive Bilinski Fellowship funds.
5. The Bilinski Fellow understands and agrees that they will not engage in any employment within or outside of the University.
6. The Bilinski Fellow understands and agrees that they must make demonstrable progress toward the doctoral degree and dissertation completion for each term for which fellowship funds are granted.
7. The Bilinski Fellow understands and agrees that the only fellowship they will hold during the July 1, 2026 – June 30, 2027 Fiscal Year will be the Bilinski Fellowship.

I hereby certify that I meet all eligibility criteria for the Bilinski Fellowship, and I agree to the terms and conditions of the Bilinski Fellowship.

I agree to submit two brief interim reports on my use of Bilinski Fellowship funds by December 16, 2026, and May 15, 2027, and a final report by June 30, 2027. The reports will contain a summary of the purposes for which funds have been expended (tuition, fees, books, field research, materials, other educational expenses, necessary living expenses) and a brief description of progress toward dissertation completion.

Each report will be submitted by the appropriate due date via the [Bilinski Activity Report](#) online submission form on the college website.

(Applicant's signature)

(Date)

(Name: Please Print)