2019–2020 IGCC Dissertation Fellowship Competition


**Application deadline:** 5:00 p.m. PST, Friday, December 21, 2018

**Recommendation letters due by:** Wednesday, January 2, 2019

At a Glance

- IGCC will award up to ten regular dissertation fellowships and one specially designated Herb York IGCC Fellowship for the 2019–2020 academic year.

- The Herb York IGCC Fellowship honors IGCC’s founding director, Dr. Herbert F. York, and is given to an outstanding University of California student whose dissertation project aligns with IGCC’s mission and research themes. The fellowship was made possible by generous support from the York family.

- Fellowship consists of a nine-month stipend of $25,000 to defray living expenses. It is not intended for UC student fees, tuition, or health insurance.

- Doctoral students enrolled in the University of California, including JD/PhD, MD/PhD, and MD with thesis, are eligible to apply.

- Applicants must advance to candidacy by **June 30, 2019. NO EXCEPTIONS.**

- US citizenship is not required.

- Fellowships are for one year and may not be carried into future years.

Questions? Email igcc-cp@ucsd.edu or call 858-822-4959
IGCC MISSION

IGCC addresses global challenges to peace and prosperity through academically rigorous, policy-relevant research, training, and outreach on international security, economic development, and the environment.

TOPICS

To examine the complex range of issues in our fast-evolving global environment, IGCC seeks to support dissertations around research topics that closely track current global security priorities. The proposed dissertation research must have one of the following themes as an integral part of the project.

1. **Food Security, Human Security, Global Health, Nontraditional and Emerging Threats:** Threats from civil war, ethnic and/or state violence, corruption and governmental failures, drug smuggling, human rights, migration, refugees from natural disasters and failed states, global and public health, food security.

2. **Terrorism and Political Violence:** Nonconventional terrorist threats, root causes of terrorism, how climate change, human security, and international political economy affect terrorism.

3. **Cybersecurity:** Cybercrime, partnerships between hostile states and non-state actors in cyberspace, effects of technological innovation.

4. **Regional and Major Power Relations:** Ethnic and religious conflicts, building regional multilateral institutions, dominant and rising powers, public versus public/private partnerships in governance.

5. **Energy and Environmental Security:** Energy security, climate change, climate refugees, effects of technological innovation.

6. **Global Environmental and Health Cooperation:** Incentives, policies, and technologies that foster international agreements on environmental and health protection as well as strategies to adapt to the threats that they impose.

7. **Nuclear Nonproliferation:** Proliferation, rules and norms, nuclear nonproliferation regime.

8. **Defense and Military Issues:** The roles of military establishments, nature and employment of military power, civil-military relations, arms competition, defense science, technology, and innovation.

9. **Geo-economics and the Political Economy of Security:** Economic sources of national security, security dimensions of industrial policy and trade relations, economic statecraft.

See the [Appendix: Expanded Themes](#) for more detail.

RELEVANCE

The competition is open to all academic disciplines. Multidisciplinary approaches and policy-relevant work are encouraged.

Proposals are scored on both relevance and quality.

To meet IGCC criteria for relevance,

1. the proposed research must fit within one of the themes; and
2. the international **sources** and/or **consequences** of the phenomenon studied must be an integral part of the project.

**APPLICATION DEADLINE IS DECEMBER 20, 2018**
Your project will not be funded if it does not explicitly address the relevance criteria. We accept studies of domestic processes that have international implications; however, you must clearly make the case in your proposal as to how these domestic processes relate to international conditions, either as causes or effects.

Make sure you explain how your work will advance academic understanding, inform policy, or have other, practical applications.

Keep in mind that your proposal will be read and scored by a multidisciplinary committee from across the social sciences. Make sure that your proposal does not rely heavily on disciplinary jargon and can be understood by such an audience.

NUMBER OF AWARDS
We expect to make 11 fellowship awards this year. One will be designated the Herb York IGCC Fellow.

HOW TO APPLY

The application deadline is December 20, 2018.

We will not consider late or incomplete applications.

NOTE: This fellowship proposal does not require the participation of a principal investigator.

A complete application will include these five required elements.

1. **Applicant information & abstract**: Complete the applicant information asked for on the web form and provide a brief abstract (1,000 characters) of your proposal. Be sure to indicate the theme that applies to your proposed research.

2. **Proposal narrative**: Upload as a pdf. The narrative description of the project is not to exceed 1,500 words. This limit is strictly enforced. The narrative should include:
   a. **A description of the research problem or goals**: What questions will your research answer?
   b. **Significance of the research and its relevance (see section on relevance) to the IGCC research topics**: Both are very important for a proposal to be competitive. Be explicit.
   c. **Research design and methods**: Include a specific research design and/or conceptual description of any models to be evaluated. Explain the procedures you will employ (such as archival work, interviews, statistical analysis) to answer your research question. Indicate how IGCC funds will enable you to undertake these procedures. This should make up the bulk of the narrative and usually distinguishes the proposals that receive funding.
   d. **Timeline**: Progress to date and schedule for completion.
   e. **Literature citations**: The narrative must demonstrate the applicant’s knowledge of the existing literature surrounding the research topic. This may be demonstrated through use of footnotes, a literature review, or a bibliography. Citations do not count against the word count or appendix limit. The application will not be reviewed if citations are not included.
   f. **Appendix**: Models, sample interview questions, data sources, and so on may be added as an appendix to the narrative. The appendix is not included in the word count, but is limited to no more than two pages.

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g. **Word count:** Include a word count at the end of the narrative. Appendices, footnotes, and other source citations are not included in the word count.

3. **Curriculum vitae:** Upload as a pdf.

4. **Transcripts:** Upload as a pdf. Applicants may cut and paste their academic record from their school’s website or scan their transcript. Transcript does not have to be official.

5. **Two letters of recommendation, sent directly by the letter writers:** One letter of recommendation must be from your advisor. Letters must be on department letterhead and emailed from the evaluator’s campus email address to igcc-cp@ucsd.edu.

   **NOTE:** It is the applicant’s responsibility to verify that both letters of recommendation have been received. Applicants may do so by emailing igcc-cp@ucsd.edu. Recommendation letters received after the letter deadline of January 2, 2019 will not be included with initial proposal review.

**DEADLINES**

Online application materials must be submitted by 5:00 p.m. PST, Friday, December 20, 2018.

Your campus may have an earlier internal deadline. Please check with your department business administrator. **You are responsible for meeting local campus requirements.**

Letters of recommendation must be emailed by January 2, 2019.

We will not review late or incomplete applications.

**LOCAL CAMPUS REQUIREMENTS**

Your campus may have internal requirements and deadlines that must be followed when applying for financial support. Contact your department’s business administrator or your student affairs staff for guidance.

**PROPOSAL REVIEW AND AWARD NOTIFICATION**

The dissertation fellowships are awarded by the IGCC Steering Committee, a multidisciplinary group of representatives from each UC campus and the Lawrence Livermore and Los Alamos National Laboratories.

A list of current Steering Committee members is here: http://igcc.ucsd.edu/people/steering-committee/index.html.

**NOTE:** The initial review of the proposal will not involve the committee member from the student’s home campus.

Applicants will receive written notification of results by late spring 2019.

**AWARD DURATION**

The dissertation fellowships are for nine months (October–June) and may not be carried into future years. Recipients must use the fellowship in the designated award year. Unspent funds must be returned to IGCC at the end of the award year. No continuations or renewals are allowed.

**RECEIPT OF ADDITIONAL AWARDS**

IGCC fellows may be eligible to accept additional grants or awards from other agencies, especially funding that covers UC tuition and registration fees.
IGCC reserves the right to negotiate cost-sharing agreements directly with other award agencies. IGCC will determine any final award amount or cost share based on level of support obtained and the extended project budget.

INDIRECT COSTS (IDC)
These awards are not subject to IDC.

ADMINISTRATION OF FELLOWSHIP AWARD

- At the time of award, IGCC dissertation fellowship funds are transferred to the awardee’s graduate home department and administered locally. Funds are administered through the student’s graduate department business office, not by the IGCC central office.
- Transfers are usually received by the home campus in October.
- Fellowship stipend payments are arranged at the home campus in accordance with local campus procedures. IGCC does not send fellowship payments directly to awardees.
- Check with your graduate department’s fiscal administrator if you have questions about disbursement of your award.
- IGCC fellowships are not intended for UC student fees, tuition, or health insurance.
- All funding is contingent on IRB approval where applicable.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION
For additional information, contact Marie Thiveos Stewart (mthiveos@ucsd.edu, 858-822-4959) or email igcc-cp@ucsd.edu.
APPENDIX: EXPANDED THEMES

Carefully reviewing these expanded themes will help you to determine if your dissertation is a good fit for IGCC.


Global security in the 21st century depends on preventing and managing a range of nontraditional threats that endanger human health and welfare. National security governance now grapples with human security challenges, from global health to refugees, from natural disasters to failed states. Global environmental insecurity stems from resource competition, management of the global commons, interdependency of pollution, and the consequences of climate change. Demographic flows and spillovers from civil wars pose security problems such as refugees, IDPs, and human trafficking. Students might choose to look at questions such as: How is global health threatened by epidemics, environmental toxicity, natural disasters, exclusion of vulnerable populations, and declines in health governance in failed states? How do ineffective authority, repressive governments, and social problems generate cross-border criminality such as drug smuggling and terrorism? How might criminal control of scarce resources fuel civil conflict? How might struggles over human rights within a nation spill over to affect international security? Analyzing the causes and ramifications of these new security threats is essential to devise effective responses to them.

2. Terrorism and Political Violence

Today’s domestic and international threats emanate from multiple nontraditional sources. Especially since the attacks of September 11, 2001, Americans and our allies are focused on terrorist threats. Students might examine questions such as: What is the nature of the nonconventional terrorist threat? Why are religious extremists in the past few decades the perceived source of terrorist threats? To what extent are root causes of terrorism due to religion, ideology, underdeveloped economies, poor governance, grievances, or other factors? Can insurgency and terrorism emanating from failed states be contained without nation building? In settings without an active U.S. military presence, how are technologically sophisticated monitoring, nation-building and counter-terrorism efforts most effectively combined? How do climate change, human security, and international political economy affect terrorism?

3. Cybersecurity

The practical challenges of cybercrime and cyber defense span boundaries between government and the private sector as well as between nations; likewise, the intellectual challenges span the disciplines of computer science and engineering, social science, and humanities. Relevant questions include: How does the evolving social ecology of cybercrime hinder public–private and international cooperation? How does the present-day technical art of the possible in cybersecurity, once set in its organizational and strategic context, compare to previous historical experience? What unique partnerships between hostile states and non-state actors are possible through cyberspace? What can we really expect of cyber-offense? Is it possible to deter cyber threats? How do interactions between cyber, space, and more traditional security domains shape the cyber defense landscape? Does mutual reliance on cyberspace foster restraint, or does it create incentives to engage in games of chicken or even to strike first?

4. Regional and Major Power Relations

Despite the emergence of new threats from non-state actors, the risk of interstate conflict remains substantial. Geographic regions—East and South Asia, Africa, the Middle East, Latin America—are significant arenas for interstate competition in the defense and economic realms. How does the regional
threat environment influence a country’s choices about nuclear proliferation? Why do some ethnic and religious conflicts within countries spread across borders and become international wars? Have the efforts of neighboring countries to enhance cooperation and prevent conflict by building regional multilateral institutions been effective? The regional context is also important for major power relations. As new powers like China, India, and Brazil emerge, how do the United States, Europe, and Japan react? How are the relations between China, Russia, and the United States the same or different than historical cases of the relations with dominant and rising powers which have almost always led to war? How is China’s drive to become a world-class defense and dual-use technological industrial power impacting the security and economies of East Asia and the United States?

5. Energy and Environmental Security

Access to environmental and energy resources play a critical role in societal well-being and economic growth. Since many of these resources are both scarce and cross national boundaries, conflict over them is a major concern. Example questions are: What are the best institutional frameworks for managing cross-boundary environmental issues and how do they differ across resources and regions? How does environmental degradation impact the long-term economic prospects of nations? How does the desire for energy security impact the global energy mix and thus the scope for addressing climate change? What are the likely impacts of climate change on global access to water? How will climate refugees, such as the millions that will leave coastal Bangladesh if sea levels rise significantly, affect stability in impacted regions?

6. Global Environmental and Health Cooperation

Incentives, policies, and technologies that foster international agreements on environmental and health protection as well as strategies to adapt to the threats which they impose. While research proposals focused on domestic policy are welcome, successful candidates should explain how those domestic policies can foster the global cooperation agenda.

7. Nuclear Nonproliferation

The long recognized dual nature, or role, of nuclear technology in weapons development as well as energy production and other civilian technologies makes nuclear issues a persistent policy concern. The proliferation of nuclear weapons and fissile material has intensified concerns about the potential threat of nuclear terrorism by non-state actors. Relevant research questions, which have profound policy implications, include: How can international cooperation improve monitoring and enforcement of nonproliferation rules and norms? Why do states go nuclear and what international strategies can impact these decisions? What new challenges do increasing non-state actor threats combined with a rise in nuclear states present? How does asymmetric access to nuclear weapons shape threats and the potential use of force? What are the key weaknesses in the nuclear nonproliferation regime and how can they be addressed?

8. Defense and Military Issues

From the challenges of traditional state-to-state military competition to addressing a growing array of non-traditional security issues, there is a rich menu of issues for research. Of particular interest for IGCC and the National Laboratories is an examination of the interaction between defense, innovation, and technology, civil–military relations, and the nature of the evolving military landscape at the global and regional level. Important questions include: What is the nature of the relationship between security and technology in today’s information-driven defense environment? What are the key drivers of defense innovation? How should states balance their defense planning and resource allocations in meeting the often-divergent requirements of traditional and non-traditional security? Is the traditional distinction
between the civilian and military spheres, especially in the economic and technological arenas, becoming blurred? If so, what are the international implications? How does political-economic and technological interdependence affect a state’s strategic calculations?

9. Geo-economics and the Political Economy of Security

The economic dimensions of geostrategic and geopolitical cooperation and competition are becoming increasingly important. This includes the use of economic instruments such as trade, investment, and sanctions to promote and defend national interests; the effects of economic actions by other countries and international institutions on a country’s geopolitical goals; and the use of economic instruments to produce beneficial geopolitical results. The political economy of security covers issues such as the economic sources of a country’s national security power and the employment of economic instruments to further national security goals.