



INDIANA UNIVERSITY
THE UNIVERSITY GRADUATE SCHOOL

Esther L. Kinsley Master's Thesis Award

Purpose: The Esther L. Kinsley Award was established through a bequest to the Indiana University Foundation by Esther L. Kinsley, a Phi Beta Kappa graduate of Indiana University. She taught civics, history, and economics at Shelbyville High School for 40 years. According to plans developed by faculty committees and approved by the Graduate Council, each degree granting program of The University Graduate School may nominate one "truly outstanding" Master's thesis for consideration by the Awards and Financial Aid Committee of the Graduate Council. The committee will consider such criteria as originality, documentation, significance, accuracy, organization, and style.

Eligibility Criteria: Master's students must have received a Master's degree from The University Graduate School during the previous academic year (July 1, 2010 - June 30, 2011).

Nomination Process: If an academic unit has a "truly outstanding" thesis, the Director of Graduate Studies or Chair is encouraged to place it in nomination by having the student submit an application using the Graduate School Fellowship Application located in OneStart. Each department may only nominate one Master's thesis.

The student, either by their department's request or by their own initiative, will submit an application online:

1. The student submits their application online through OneStart >> Services >> Student Self-Service >> Services & Information >> Financial >> "Bloomington Graduate Fellowship Application"
 - a. They will be required to attach their abstract, thesis, and recommendation letters.
2. The Fellowships Coordinator will email the student's application and required materials to their department after all materials have been received.
3. All nominations must be submitted to our office by email to the Fellowships Coordinator: Yvonne Dwigan, ylivings@indiana.edu, in one pdf document and must consist of the following:
 - a. Letter of nomination from the Director of Graduate Studies or Department Chairperson;
 - b. Any additional information the department may want to include

Award Value: \$1,500

Deadlines:

All student materials must be submitted electronically through the Graduate School Fellowship Application System located in the Student Self-Service section in OneStart.

Student Deadline: Students need to have all materials submitted online by **Friday, September 16, 2011.**

Department Deadline: All materials need to be submitted to The University Graduate School by **Friday, September 30, 2011.**

*Letters of recommendation must appear on department letterhead and bear the signature of the recommender. Scanned versions of paper recommendation letters are acceptable. Electronic recommendation letters bearing electronic signatures are also accepted. Unsigned recommendations will not be accepted thus eliminating a student's application for consideration.

**Questions to be considered by the
Awards and Financial Aid Committee for the Esther L. Kinsley Master's Thesis Award**

- **Characteristics of the Research.** How important is the subject treated in this study? How extensive and how original is the material collected by the author? Does the study present an original claim or thesis? How effectively does the author demonstrate this?
- **Contribution to Team Research.** If the thesis is the result of a group effort (i.e., in a research laboratory), to what extent are the data and arguments presented in this study due to the author?
- **Application of the Results.** To what extent could the theory presented in the study be extended beyond its present applications? How much revision is necessary before the study could be published? What portions of it have already been published or accepted for publication?
- **Construction of the Study.** How would you evaluate the grammar, spelling, and syntax; the clarity of expression; and the general style of the dissertation?
- **Limitations of the Study.** In your opinion, how could this study be improved?

Please note: These nominations will automatically be considered for the MAGS Thesis Award. If you do not wish to be considered for this award, please contact our office, 812-855-8852.