

Frequently Asked Questions

The Elouise Cobell Dissertation Writing-Year Fellowship

Q: What are the eligibility requirements?

A: Eligible applicants must:

- Be an enrolled member of a US Federally-recognized tribe; and,
- Be considered a full-time student during the period of the award; and,
- Have completed all requirements for doctoral degree except for writing and defense at time of award; and,
- Be in pursuit of a first doctoral degree of any kind, at any time, in any field (professional doctorates (Psy.D., M.D., D.O., O.D., J.D., etc) do not qualify for this fellowship award).

Note: Combination academic doctorates Ph.D. with M.D. and Ph.D. with J.D. will be considered on a case-by-case basis upon review of a completed application.

Q: Are there any additional requirements?

A: If awarded the Elouise Cobell Dissertation Writing-Year Fellowship, Fellows must:

- Set up direct deposit for award distribution; and,
- Attend the four-day Cobell Fellowship Symposium held July 12-18, 2026. This required Symposium will be hosted in Albuquerque, NM and paid for by Cobell, separate from the funding received as an award; and,
- Intend to enroll as a full-time student and will complete the dissertation in a period of 9-12 months during the 2026-2027 academic year, but no later than June 2027.

Q: When does the application open?

A: The application is available September 1 through January 10, 2026, at 11:59pm MST, without exception. All recommendations by dissertation chairs are due January 17, by 11:59pm MST, without exception.

Q: How do I apply?

A: The Elouise Cobell Dissertation Writing-Year Fellowship applications are entirely online. The application can be accessed at https://webportalapp.com/sp/login/access_oasis. Note that this platform is different from previous years and from all Cobell/AISES opportunities - applicants will need to begin an entirely new application at the above link.

Q: How much is the award?

A: The award is up to \$30,000 per fellow per award term, plus additional monies to help offset any federal and state taxes.

Q: What are the award dates?

A: The first month of the Fellowship cycle will be June 2026, and then each month thereafter, with an anticipated graduation of May 2027, or earlier.

Q: How is the award distributed?

A: The Elouise Cobell Dissertation Writing-Year Fellowship is disbursed directly to the Fellow in 12 equal monthly payments.

Q: What is considered 'Full-time status'?

A: "Full-time status" at Cobell is always established in partnership with your university and your program.

Q: Are applicants allowed to use artificial intelligence (AI) tools in their application responses?

A: You will tell your own story better than AI can.

We know there are many AI tools available to students (like ChatGPT). While we believe that artificial intelligence (AI) tools help brainstorm ideas, outline, or edit, the final responses must be the applicant's own work. While the Cobell Scholarship does not prohibit the use of AI technologies for the purpose of revision and proofreading, applicants should use their own thoughts for idea generation and response writing.

We expect that an applicant will personally write all responses submitted for review in the application. The responses that reviewers love to read, and that are most helpful in making a decision tell them something new and unique about the applicant and (most importantly) are in the applicant's authentic voice. The reviewers should hear the applicant's voice and perspective when reading all the application materials. The quality of the writing is not as important as the personalized message or story that is being shared. We read applications to get a better understanding of an applicant and to hear an authentic voice.