Funding Dissertation Research

There are many sources out there from which you can find funding to help support your dissertation research. These generally fall into two types: (1) funding for research travel for those who need to access archives, etc. and (2) general fellowships to support your dissertation research and/or writing. In putting together your applications for these funds, an excellent resource is the Foolproof Grant Template from The Professor is In: http://theprofessorisin.com/2011/07/05/dr-karens-foolproof-grant-template/ (Please note: all of the amounts and deadlines that follow are current as of the 2013-2014 academic year, but are subject to change.)

Funding for Research Travel

SLU College of Arts and Sciences Graduate Student Travel Fund
Link: http://www.slu.edu/Documents/arts_sciences/CAS_Graduate_Foreign_Travel_Fund.pdf
Amount: $1,000
Deadline: Mid-October
This award provides funding for graduate students who need to travel abroad for research. Upon returning, you need to submit a report to the CAS about what you accomplished on your trip. For this award, you also need to pay up front and then submit for reimbursement from the CAS when you return, so be sure to save your receipts!

Fulbright U.S. Student Program
Link: http://us.fulbrightonline.org/
Amount: Varies by country
Deadline: Mid-October
This award provides support for 6-9 months of research in a foreign country. You need to propose a very specific project that you will be working on and so this is ideal for the research you do in preparation for writing your dissertation (that is, it’s much harder to propose this for dissertation completion). If you want to apply for the Fulbright, begin well in advance (the online application opens in May) and get advice from people who have received Fulbright awards in the past. John Hasley Wood received a Fulbright for his dissertation research in the DTS.

The Woodrow Wilson Dissertation Fellowship in Women’s Studies
Link: http://woodrow.org/fellowships/womens-studies/
Amount: $5,000
Deadline: Mid-October
This is designed to support the final year of dissertation research on topics related to women, gender, etc. Like some of the dissertation completion fellowships below, this is designed to only be used in your final year of dissertation research. Unlike those more general fellowships, however, this is designed for “research-related travel, data work/collection, and supplies.” This fellowship, however, can be used to support your research at the same time as you hold one of the more general fellowships.

Mellon/SSRC International Dissertation Research Fellowship
Link: http://www.ssrc.org/fellowships/idrf-fellowship/
Amount: Average of $20,000
Deadline: Early November
This award provides support for 9-12 months of research in a foreign country. The award emphasizes that it is for research, not for writing. Thus, this would be ideal for when just beginning your dissertation research.

Mellon/CLIR Fellowship for Dissertation Research in Original Sources
Link: [http://www.clir.org/fellowships/mellon/mellon.html](http://www.clir.org/fellowships/mellon/mellon.html)
Amount: $2,000 per month for 9-12 months, plus $1,000 after completing participating in a symposium and submitting a report (maximum = $25,000).
Deadline: Mid-November
This award is designed to support archival research for your dissertation. Like the Mellon/SSRC Fellowship, this award is for research, not writing and would be ideal for when just beginning your dissertation research.

American Academy of Religion International Dissertation Research Grant
Link: [https://www.aarweb.org/programs-services/international-dissertation-research-grants](https://www.aarweb.org/programs-services/international-dissertation-research-grants)
Amount: $5,000
Deadline: Beginning of December
This award is designed to support international travel for dissertation research. However, it appears that the award committee tends to focus more on non-Christian religions. In spite of this, since it’s not an overly complicated application it’s worth taking the time to submit one if you need funding for international dissertation research.

American Catholic Historical Association Graduate Student Research Grant
Link: [http://www.achahistory.org/2012/07/in-detail-graduate-student-research-grant/](http://www.achahistory.org/2012/07/in-detail-graduate-student-research-grant/)
Amount: $750
Deadline: End of January
This award is designed to support graduate students with their dissertation research and is ideal for research travel. Upon completion of your research trip, you’ll be asked to submit a report of your experience.

American Historical Association Research Grants
Amount: up to $1,000
Deadline: Mid-February
The American Historical Association offers several research grants in different areas. You have to be a member of the AHA to apply and the competition is open to both graduate students and faculty.

Also seek out academic associations that are focused on your area of research. For example:

- **Institut Français d’Amérique Fellowships**
  Link: [http://www.unc.edu/depts/institut/Institut/Application.html](http://www.unc.edu/depts/institut/Institut/Application.html)
  Amount: $1,500
  Deadline: Mid-January

- **Society for French Historical Studies John B. and Theta H. Wolf Travel Fellowship or Marjorie M. and Lancelot L. Farrar Memorial Award**
  Link: [http://www.societyforfrenchhistoricalstudies.net/prizes.html#wolf](http://www.societyforfrenchhistoricalstudies.net/prizes.html#wolf)
  Amount: $2,000-$2,500
  Deadline: End of January

- **The Western Society for French History Millstone Research Fellowship**
  Amount: $2,500
  Deadline: March

The Newberry Library in Chicago also offers both short-term and long-term fellowships for researchers who need to use their libraries ([http://www.newberry.org/fellowships](http://www.newberry.org/fellowships)).
American Catholic Historical Association John Tracy Ellis Dissertation Award
Link: http://www.achahistory.org/awards/#ellis
Amount: $1,200
Deadline: End of September
This award is designed to support a student who is writing a dissertation on some aspect of the history of the Catholic Church in the final stages of their degree program.

Mellon/ACLS Dissertation Completion Fellowship
Link: http://www.acls.org/programs/dcf/
Amount: $25,000 stipend, plus fund for research costs up to $3,000 and university fees up to $5,000
Deadline: Late October
This award is designed for those in their final year of dissertation research, but you cannot be further than the sixth year of your doctoral program when you apply. (This may include your master’s degree if it was also received from SLU, but contact them to be sure. Master’s degrees from other institutions do not count.) Doctoral students from SLU have received these awards in the past and are often willing to share their application materials as models. If you apply and do not receive the award, you can apply again in a following year, but you cannot apply more than twice.

AAWU American Dissertation Fellowship
Link: https://aauw.scholarsapply.org/amdissert/
Amount: $20,000
Deadline: Mid-November
This award is designed to support women who are in the final year of dissertation research. The purpose is to support dissertation writing, not “field research.” Like the Mellon/ACLS Fellowship, you can only ever apply to this award twice. Please note: this award does have a $40 application fee.

The Charlotte W. Newcombe Doctoral Dissertation Fellowship in Religion and Ethics
Link: http://woodrow.org/fellowships/newcombe/
Amount: $25,000
Deadline: Mid-November
This award is designed for those in their final year of dissertation research. Like the AAWU Fellowship, this is intended to support writing, not “field research.” Once you apply for this award, you can never apply again.

SLU Dissertation Fellowship
Link: http://www.slu.edu/x34549.xml
Amount: 11-month fellowship for 1-2 years
Deadline: End of January
The Department must nominate students for this fellowship. You must have already filed for candidacy (i.e., you must have defended your prospectus already and filed the subsequent paperwork with SLU) and you cannot have received more than five years of funding from SLU.

SLU Graduate Student Association Brennan Doctoral Dissertation Summer Fellowship
Link: http://gsa.slu.edu/awards/brennan-recognition-awards
Amount: $2,000
Deadline: Mid-February
The GSA Brennan Fellowship is designed to support research and writing over the summer. This can be used for travel, but does not have to be. It is aimed at those who have already proposed their project and are working on research. The GSA also offers awards for master’s thesis research and exam preparation.