

TIPS FOR APPLYING FOR THE DOLORES ZOHRAB LIEBMANN FELLOWSHIP

One of UCLA's Liebmann Fellows, Sara Brumfield (Near Eastern Languages & Cultures, PhD), has provided some general tips, which I've copied below (thanks, Sara!).

Tips for DLZ Fellowship:

1. Balance your essay between past accomplishments and future goals. Don't spend all your time talking about one or the other. You need to impress upon the fellowship committee how your past experiences have prepared you to accomplish your future goals, so spend time talking about both evenly.
2. Cite the specific resources you have accumulated to make your research feasible (e.g., lab equipment, software licenses, administrative support, professor support/interest/mentorship, travel to collections/raw data collection, etc.). Basically, you need to demonstrate that you have everything necessary in place: the time (an aspect often neglected in proposals), resources, support, and a promising plan; all you need is the funding.
3. Talk about how your research will impact not only your field, but our body of knowledge as a society and your local community (even an academic community). Why is your field relevant? What does it offer society? Once you accomplish your research/professional goals, how will you give your accumulated knowledge back to society? Contextualize your ideas into a broader social context.
4. Think about what you specifically, as a woman, person of color, under-represented socio-economic group, veteran, etc., will bring to the field through your stated goals. Some disciplines are very imbalanced in their constituents and it is fair to discuss this point insofar as it applies to you and your research proposal.
5. Discuss obstacles you have overcome. As students at UCLA, we all face dwindling financial support, a very real obstacle to maintaining a competitive edge with other private, large research universities. Moreover, for those in the humanities, this moment is particularly critical. If you are in a field that does not offer many extramural fellowships (e.g. ancient history, philosophy, etc.), mention this lacuna, but also state what you have done to obtain extant resources.