

**YALSA Board of Directors Meeting  
ALA Midwinter Meeting, Denver  
February 9 – 12, 2018**

**Topic:** PhD Fellowship Proposal  
**Background:** Advancing research that supports YALSA’s National Research Agenda will directly support the Leading the Transformation goal in the Organizational Plan, as well as indirectly support the Advocacy goal. In 2012 a group of YALSA members put forward the idea to encourage teen services research by establishing a PhD Fellowship. This idea was tabled due to lack of funds. With YALSA’s Leadership Endowment now earning enough interest to support this idea, Kafi Kumasi, Sandra Hughes-Hassell, and Mega Subramaniam have fleshed out the proposal and presented it to the board for their consideration via virtual discussion in November 2017. The proposal then goes on to ALA’s Award Committee for their review. In order to be entered into the official record of the organization, this document is presented as a consent item for the Board’s 2018 Midwinter Meeting.

**Action Required:** Consent

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**Proposal**

Establish a PhD fellowship to encourage research in teens, learning and libraries.

**Rationale**

Listed in Part III below

**Proposed Award**

**I. Proposed name of award**

YALSA Doctoral Dissertation Fellowship

**II. Definition & purpose of award**

The YALSA Doctoral Dissertation Fellowship consists of an award of up to \$3,000 to cover any research related expenses (including travel to conferences relevant to their dissertation research) of the recipient. The purpose of the YALSA Doctoral Dissertation Fellowship is to foster research on teens, learning and libraries, specifically research that aligns with the *YALSA’s National Research Agenda*, and/or research that investigates any aspect of *YALSA’s Teen Services Competencies for Library Staff*, by encouraging and assisting doctoral students in the field with their dissertation research.

YALSA’s Research Agenda includes these five priority areas:

- Priority Area 1: The Impact of Libraries as Teen Formal and Informal Learning Environments
- Priority Area 2: Library Staff Training, Skills and Knowledge
- Priority Area 3: Equity of Access
- Priority Area 4: Cultural Competence, Social Justice and Equity
- Priority Area 5: Community Engagement

The fellowship recipient must meet the following qualifications:

- Is currently a doctoral candidate in good standing pursuing research on teens, learning and libraries in an ALA accredited institution or other degree-granting institution that supports research related to teens, learning, and/or libraries
- Has a doctoral dissertation proposal accepted by the institution or by their dissertation advisor.
- The applicant must be a current personal membership in YALSA/ALA

### **III. Rationale for award**

- To expand the number of researchers who conduct and publish research relating to teens, learning and libraries, YALSA's National Research Agenda, and/or YALSA's Teen Services Competencies for Library Staff.
- To expand and enrich theory, research, and practice in teens, learning and libraries.
- To increase the number of faculty whose specialty is teen library services.
- To increase the number of quality submissions to YALSA's *Journal of Research on Libraries and Young Adults*

### **IV. Number & frequency of award**

One winner awarded annually. If the award jury determines that none of the applications are worthy of the award, they may opt not to award the Fellowship that year.

### **V. Administration of the award**

The award is administered by YALSA. Communications staff will encourage applications, support the award jury, and manage the award web page and online application process. Winners will be selected by a YALSA Doctoral Dissertation Fellowship Jury. The Jury consists of:

- Five YALSA members who have research backgrounds, one of whom serves as Chair
- Members are selected by the President-Elect and serve for one term, and may be appointed to serve a second consecutive term, based on successful performance in the first term
- The chair is selected by the President-Elect, and holds this position for one term, and may be appointed to serve a second consecutive term, based on successful performance in the first term.

- The Jury reports to YALSA’s Board of Directors, via a Board Liaison appointed by YALSA’s President.

Doctoral Dissertation Fellowship Jury Charge:

Vet the applications for Fellowship. Evaluate each applicant based on the stated criteria for the application, and present the name of one recipient to the YALSA office by no later than June 1<sup>st</sup>. If the jury determines none of the applications as suitable for the award, then inform the YALSA office as such by no later than June 1<sup>st</sup>.

## **VI. Deadline for Nomination or Application**

March 1 of each year

## **VII. Selection of award**

The fellowship will be awarded annually. Winners will be selected by the YALSA Doctoral Dissertation Fellowship Jury. If the jury determines that none of the applications are worthy of the award, they may opt not to award the Fellowship that year.

Nominations/applications must be received by March 1 via an online form provided by YALSA. Submissions must include the following:

- The doctoral research proposal, including a description of the research, methodology, and significance, 10 pages or less in length, double-spaced, and in English
- A proposed budget that describes how the award funds will be used
- A proposed project timeline
- A cover letter of support from the dissertation advisor endorsing the proposal, confirming that the contents of this proposal are accepted by the institution, or at least by the advisor, and indicating that the applicant is in good standing
- An up-to-date curriculum vitae

Submissions will be judged on merit with emphasis on the following:

- Potential significance of research to the field of teen library services, especially in relation to YALSA’s National Research Agenda and/or Teen Services Competencies for Library Staff
- Validity of methodology and proposed methods of analysis
- Plan for use of funds (appropriate uses include but are not limited to: travel to conduct research or present research at conference(s), incentives for study participants, transcription services, purchase data analysis software)
- Originality and degree to which the proposal addresses an unaddressed or under-addressed area of research relating to YALSA’s National Research Agenda and/or Teen Services Competencies for Library Staff
- Clarity and completeness of the proposal
- Presentation of a convincing plan for completion in a reasonable amount of time (1-2 years)

- Evidence of a continuing interest in fellowship, such as, a previous publication record

Recipients will be required to:

- Submit a written interim and final report to YALSA
- Acknowledge the support of YALSA/ALA in any publicity or presentation based on the funded study
- Inform the YALSA Executive Director if research funding from other sources is obtained, in addition to those provided by YALSA
- Submit a paper describing at least one aspect of the results of the funded study to the Association's *Journal of Research on Libraries and Young Adults (JRLYA)* for possible publication prior to submission to other publications; publication will be subject to peer-review.

**VIII. Presentation of Award**

The award shall be announced via press release and presented at the ALA Annual Conference. The recipient’s attendance is not required.

**IX. Form and/or Type of Award**

Up to \$3000 cash to be distributed in periodic installments as the research progresses. The recipient will also receive a framed certificate.

**X. Funding**

The fellowship will be funded by interest from the YALSA Leadership Endowment. The fellowship will generate no revenue. Anticipated expenses are:

<b>PhD Fellowship</b>	FY18	FY19	FY20	FY21
Cash award for honoree	3000	3000	3000	3000
Creation of certificate for honoree	50	50	50	50
Administrative costs/staff time	250	250	250	250
Marketing/PR	290	290	290	290
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>3590</b>	<b>3590</b>	<b>3590</b>	<b>3590</b>

For YALSA’s Leadership Endowment, ALA Finance calculates the available interest as the 5% average from the last 20 quarters, which in FY18 is \$3,590. YALSA currently has a Leadership Initiatives Fundraising Taskforce working to raise an additional \$20,000 for the Endowment, to boost available interest.

**XI. Catalog description of award**

The YALSA Doctoral Dissertation Fellowship fosters research in teens, learning and libraries, particularly research that aligns with the *YALSA National Research Agenda*, and/or research that investigates any aspect of *YALSA’s Teen Services Competencies for Library Staff*, by encouraging and assisting doctoral students in the field with their dissertation research.

**XII. Evaluation of award program**

After one full cycle of the award promotion, vetting, and dissemination process, YALSA’s President will assemble a group of members, including those who participated in the jury and award applicants, to evaluate the process and to submit recommendations to YALSA’s Board of Directors for improvement. Thereafter, the award will be evaluated every 3 - 5 years to ensure it continues to meet stated goals. Evaluation will be based on criteria such as:

- Number of applications received
- Number of fellowships awarded
- Alignment with YALSA’s National Research Agenda to show that the funds advance the YALSA Research agenda and close research gaps and/or alignment with YALSA’s *Teen Services Competencies for Library Staff* to show that the funds advance *YALSA Teen Services Competencies for Library Staff*
- Number of peer-reviewed papers and/or conference presentations produced by recipients

**Funding**

Listed in Part X above

**Evaluation**

Listed in Part XII above

**Proposed Board Action**

The Board approve the proposal as presented in this document and direct the Executive Director to submit it to the ALA Award Committee for their consideration at their meeting at the 2018 ALA Midwinter Meeting.

**Additional Resources**

**YALSA Board of Directors – Midwinter 2018**  
**Topic: PhD Fellowship Proposal**

- ALA Awards Committee, [www.ala.org/aboutala/committees/ala/ala-aw](http://www.ala.org/aboutala/committees/ala/ala-aw)
- ALA Diversity Research Grant, [www.ala.org/awardsgrants/awards/374/apply](http://www.ala.org/awardsgrants/awards/374/apply)
- YALSA's National Research Agenda.  
[www.ala.org/yalsa/guidelines/research/researchagenda](http://www.ala.org/yalsa/guidelines/research/researchagenda)
- YALSA's Teen Services Competencies for Library Staff,  
[www.ala.org/yalsa/guidelines/yacompetencies2010](http://www.ala.org/yalsa/guidelines/yacompetencies2010)