The Graduate School is pleased to announce the PhD Dissertation Completion award for the 2018-2019 academic year. This award is for graduate students who are in their final one (1) or two (2) terms of PhD research and dissertation writing and will graduate by either Fall 2018 or Spring 2019. This award provides an assistantship for Fall Semester 2018, Spring Semester 2019 or AY 2018-2019. Applications for Fall and or AY 2018-2019 are being accepted now. Applications for Spring consideration are due November 2, 2018.

The award provides a stipend of $1,400 per month plus an additional supplement of $130/month, six (6) tuition credits in the fall and three (3) tuition credits in the spring. If applying for only one term, only three (3) tuition credits will be provided. University fees and other fees are not included. The student will be a member of the Graduate Employee Organization (GEO), represented by MEA-MFT.

Eligibility
The application is open to PhD candidates in any eligible department at MSU-Bozeman. Applicants must have completed all requirements for the PhD except the dissertation, obtained ABD* status, by the application deadline. The application is restricted to graduate students who, at the time of application, have progressed no further than four (4) years of their degree program (including time for a Master’s degree obtained en route to the PhD).

Exclusions
- Graduate students who hold teaching or research assistantships or who are employed by MSU in any capacity during the same time period.
- Graduate students who have previously held a PhD Dissertation Completion Award.

Application Requirements
Applications must be submitted as one continuous document attachment to Melis Edwards at gradschool@montana.edu and will include:

1. Completed application form.
2. A concise statement describing your research goals. The narrative should describe the intellectual merit of your research within your specific and general fields and contain a list of specific contributions and their potential impact. (No more than three (3) pages**).
   The abstract of at least 1 new manuscript that will be submitted for peer-review by the end of the award duration. The manuscript must be an outcome of the dissertation. Include title, authors (one of which must be your Research Chair), affiliation, and proposed journal. Alternatively, a 250 word abstract for a book (not a book chapter) and proposed publisher that is an outcome of the dissertation, if appropriate.
4. Timeline (1 page) for the expected completion of dissertation writing, defense, and the submission of the scholarly products specified in item 3. **
5. Bibliography (1 page) should provide an overview of essential references and should balance the various sorts of key materials being used. **

6. Two letters of reference (1 page each/reference **)  
   One reference must be from the primary research chair. The letter must attest to the completion of all dissertation requirements and the scholarly products by the intended commencement date. Further, the letter must state that, in the event of an award, the department will not provide the applicant with any additional financial award or another appointment during the duration of the award. The second letter is of your choosing.

7. Biographical notes (1 page**)  
   List: i) academic preparation, ii) teaching and outreach activities, iii) awards and honors, iv) existing peer-reviewed publications, and v) existing presentations (list as either oral or poster).

**Evaluation Criteria**

1. The potential of the project to advance the field of study in which it is proposed and make an original and significant contribution to knowledge.

2. The quality of the proposal with regard to its methodology, scope, theoretical framework, and grounding in the relevant scholarly literature.

3. The feasibility of the project and the likelihood that the applicant will execute the work within the proposed timeframe.

4. The scholarly record and career trajectory of the applicant.

If awarded, it is expected that:

1. The Graduate School is notified by email of the defense date, time, and location.
2. The dissertation is defended by The Graduate School’s deadlines.
3. The Graduate School’s ETD (electronic thesis/dissertation) format advisor has accepted the dissertation by the appropriate deadline (see ETD deadlines).
4. The Graduate School is notified in writing on the status of scholarly products by the day before commencement.

**Note:** It is advised that the student consult with The Graduate School on eligibility before preparing the application. It is also recommended that the Research Advisor and other authors acknowledge all scholarly products in Activity Insight.

Failure to complete all of the above will result in the ineligibility of any student from the department to apply for this award for three (3) consecutive years.

*ABD: All but dissertation.

** Double-spaced, Times New Roman 11-point font with at least a 1-inch margin on all sides.