

The Mary Isabel Sibley Fellowship



2019 Greek Studies
2020 French Studies

About the Fellowship

Established in 1934 by Isabelle Stone (ΦBK, Wellesley College) in honor of her mother, Mary Isabel Sibley, this fellowship was designed to reward women pursuing graduate work in one of two fields of study, French or Greek, with the experience of researching and living abroad. Elected to Phi Beta Kappa in 1905, Dr. Stone received her Ph.D. in 1908 from Cornell University and was then awarded the Alice Freeman Palmer Fellowship and spent the next year in Europe, principally in Greece, where she continued her study of Greek history and language.

Through the Mary Isabel Sibley Fellowship, Dr. Stone intended to pass on the opportunity for pleasure, wisdom and scholarship that she found during her time in Greece to future generations.

Fellowship Details

The Mary Isabel Sibley Fellowship is awarded annually, alternating in the fields of Greek and French. The award may be used for the study of Greek culture (e.g. language, literature, history, archaeology), or the study of French language or literature. It carries a stipend of \$20,000 and is not restricted to members of Phi Beta Kappa or to U.S. citizens. The stipend is typically paid in two installments, the first on July 1 of the award year, and the second on January 1 of the following year.

Eligibility Requirements

The fellowship is intended, according to the donor's wishes, for women in the early stages of their research careers who:

- Demonstrate ability to carry on original research;
- Hold a doctorate/have fulfilled all requirements for doctorate except the dissertation (ABD); and
- Plan to devote full-time work to research during the fellowship year. Under appropriate circumstances, if approved by Phi Beta Kappa, candidates may hold other positions concurrently with the Sibley Fellowship.

Periodic progress reports from the Fellow are expected, with the hope that the results of the year of research will be published in some form.

Application Process

Completed applications should be sent electronically to [Jen Horneman](#), Awards Coordinator at the Phi Beta Kappa National Office, and must include:

- The application form
- A work proposal
- Transcripts from all institutions*
- Three letters of recommendation*

*Letters and transcripts may be sent electronically, directly to ΦBK from the letter writer and/or institution.

Note for Selection Panel

Six selection panel members make up the Sibley Selection Panel: three will have a background in the Classics, and three will have a background in French.

The Sibley Selection Panel is tasked with selecting one fellowship winner in the designated field (French or Greek) for the year. In selecting the winner, the panel is encouraged to consider candidates who submit a project that is well prepared and duly researched. It should be a significant, engaging and relevant topic with a clear methodology and defined goals. The project should be at an advanced stage and should consider and/or contain work that is interdisciplinary or comparative, and engages with a variety of locations, timeframes, languages, media, individuals, etc. The candidate should reflect the standards of the Phi Beta Kappa Society through a record of academic excellence, as well as breadth and depth of study in liberal arts and sciences, collegiality, and integrity.

The ΦBK Awards Coordinator will facilitate the prize process and send all selection panel members the completed application materials for review, typically about one month after the January 15th application deadline has passed. All selection panel members are expected to inform ΦBK of any conflict of interest prior to submission of evaluation materials. Selection panel members are asked to fill out an evaluation form and rank order the contenders. If necessary, ΦBK will arrange for a conference call to finalize the selection.

Representatives from ΦBK will contact and make fellowship arrangements with the winners.