

# IMPACT STATEMENTS

*"I finished data collection at the end of my 5th year. In my 3rd year I had to change my dissertation project for reasons outside of my control. I spent years 4 and 5 abroad for ethnographic fieldwork. Without 6th year funding, I would not have been able to analyze data and write my dissertation."*

*"Having access to 6th-year funding allowed me to make substantial progress on a dissertation that draws from the interdisciplinary training I received here at Northwestern. The time that I received to complete my Ph.D. contributed to the quality of my dissertation research and allowed me to further develop my CV, enhancing my competitiveness as I successfully secured a postdoctoral traineeship this year. One of the aspects of doctoral training that most drew me to Northwestern was its interdisciplinarity. However, cultivating interdisciplinary expertise takes time, and I am uncertain if the level of expertise I would have attained in only five years would have been sufficient to ensure my success on the academic job market and beyond. 6th and 7th-year funding also provided time for me to polish my academic writing and other professional skills that were less explicitly covered in earlier coursework."*

*"I had sixth year funding because I had a TAship in Gender Studies my fifth year. I now need a 7th year of funding so have to support 6th year funding and resist the hard cut-offs from fellowships and TAships. Social sciences cannot proceed as fast as regular sciences. It's taken me over a year to "get in" at my field site in a full and rich way."*

*"In order to collect the quality of data I need to rigorously answer my questions of interest in sociology, I will need at least 6 years of funding. Without 6th year funding, I will potentially have to lower the quality of my work, hurt my chances at getting a job in academia, and consider taking out loans. It will impact how I form relationships and approach having a family."*

*"My dissertation research combines comparative-historical and interview data. Not having 6th year funding could seriously jeopardize the quality of data collection and the completion of the project."*

*"I am fortunate to be in a position where I do not need 6th year funding. However, there are simply not enough opportunities (i.e., research and graduate assistantships that offer banked quarters) to insure that ALL graduate students will have funding through their 6th year. As such, I am advocating on behalf of the collective interests of graduate student workers."*

*"As a comparative ethnographer at institutions skeptical of outsiders, gaining access took longer than usual. Without 6th year funding it's hard to imagine how I could have collected data at all from both my field sites, one of which is out of state. Allowing 6+ year TA/RA funding is essential for maintaining our top-10 position in the field."*

*"If I don't get 6th year funding, I'll have to entirely shift my dissertation. I'm planning on blending fieldwork and historical research methods, which both take a significant time to do properly."*

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*"6th year funding is incredibly important to grad students generally. At this stage, we are trying to finish up the program and find work, and loss of funding makes us incredibly vulnerable. I didn't have 6th year funding because I am out of state, and have had to find full time work instead. This has severely impacted my productivity."*

*"It would mean the ability to finish my dissertation!"*

*"Not having 6th year funding would jeopardize my visa status."*

*"I am finishing my dissertation this year (my 6th). If I didn't have funding this year, it would have been impossible for me to finish in less than 7 years. The summer before my 5th year, I changed my dissertation topic. This is extremely normal, and does not count as an extraordinary circumstance that would extend time to completion on a dissertation. Nevertheless, I spent my fifth year nailing down what the new topic would be and making sure that I had enough background knowledge to write the new dissertation. This means that I needed to write the majority of my dissertation over the summer and this academic year. In addition, because I will not have funding next year, I went on the job market and applied to almost 70 jobs this fall and winter. I am now in a good position to finish my dissertation by the end of the year, but it would have been impossible for me to be in this position if I didn't have 6th year funding. Already, I've been stretched thin--both writing a dissertation and going on the academic job market are full time jobs, and this quarter I am teaching my own course for the first time. If I had to adjunct just to make a living, I would need to teach several courses each quarter, and there is no way I could have done that while also doing the amount of dissertation and application work I have done this year."*

*"I am a Canadian citizen. If I had not received sixth year funding I would have been forced to move back to Canada at the end of my fifth year. International students are not permitted to work outside of Northwestern University, except within their field, and getting work permission for Philosophy teaching positions that are external to Northwestern University can be very time consuming and difficult, in addition to the time taken up finding these opportunities and securing the position to begin with. In addition, international students must receive independent permission to work for each place of employment and each separate contract within the same place of employment. So, the time and energy that would be required to secure both employment and the permission to be employed would be exceptionally time consuming and given the way adjunct positions work, would be ongoing. Northwestern's employment opportunities do not pay enough that I could have worked somewhere on campus while also working to complete my dissertation."*

*"I would know that I would be able to support myself on funding from TGS until I graduate, even if I don't manage to graduate on time."*

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*"I am a 6th year graduate student in political theory. My contract from Northwestern stated that I would be funded for 5 years, what it did not tell me was that the average time to complete a political theory dissertation was 7 years. In my time at NU, I have known one theory grad to finish in 6 and more than that to complete in 8. A 7-year completion time is not an unusual stat across the country and is in fact lower than the national average. Given these facts, the issue for me is twofold. One, I picked NU precisely because it did not have competitive funding amongst grad students. By throwing 6 years into the deep end you are forcing them to compete for the minimal internal funding available. Such funding already has a history of excluding certain fields and subfields. The alternative is external funding opportunities which are scarce for theorists and even scarcer for international theory grad students. As a non-citizen, there were two external fellowships that I was eligible to apply for, I did apply though both are extremely competitive. As a non-citizen, I also am not able to legally work outside the university, thus eliminating my capacity to self-fund. Two, if it is generally known and acknowledged that a PhD takes longer than five years to complete, then NU will develop a reputation as producing rushed and substandard dissertations. In a competitive job market, NU grads will not be hired. Furthermore, in the rush students will no longer be able to give time to TAing and undergrads will suffer. In summary, this policy in the short term is a betrayal to those current 4th, 5th, and 6th years working hard, and in the long term will severely impact Northwestern's reputation as a top tier university."*

*"Without sixth year funding, I will not be able to stay in academia. No one gets jobs in my subfield (political theory) in their fifth year, and I can't afford to stay on without financial support. I have applied for external fellowships, but these are competitive and always risky. Having to spend my time cobbling together financial support, rather than writing my dissertation or articles for publication, means that I will be even less prepared for the job market in my fifth year."*

*"Securing 6th year funding would allow me to reach the job market with the appropriate ensemble of an excellent dissertation paired with conference participation and publications. Though our program is currently encouraging us to finish necessary requirements sooner, it is in those other critical arenas of academic life where a lack of 6th year funding will largely impact my phd experience. At the same time, because of immigration requirements for us international students, this funding problem could eventually force me to leave the country before obtaining a job. In this sense, I believe It is not only in my personal benefit but rather in that of the large academic community at Northwestern to not see the quality of our research and placement hindered by failing to support graduate students regarding 6th year funding."*

*"I am now working 60-80 hour weeks in order to finish my dissertation research before the fall so that if I can't find funding I'll at least be on the job market without having to also work and finish writing my dissertation. Having assurances about 6th year funding would have allowed me to slow down and complete a more ambitious project."*

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*"I would be less prepared for the job market than I otherwise would be."*

*"I don't know what I'd do on that last year! I may have to get a job to support myself instead of being able to focus on finishing my thesis."*

*"6th year funding would mean that there'd be a real possibility I could wrap up my dissertation and go through the very time-intensive process of going on the job market. If I had to work an insane amount of adjunct positions to scrape up a living, I'd never get my work done."*

*"If I do not acquire 6th year funding, I don't know if I can stay in the country. Furthermore, since my dissertation topic is taking me in a direction very different from my current research, I desperately need time to familiarize myself with a new body of literature. If I had 6th year funding, I would be able to do all of this while also preparing myself for the job market in a sufficiently thorough way."*

*"It would mean I'd have to find other work that would somehow be able to pay me enough to sustain myself while finishing my dissertation and going on the job market but which wouldn't get in the way of the latter important tasks."*

*"Having 6th year funding would mean I'd be able to continue my work and better ensure I succeed in philosophy. Assuming I would be teaching it would mean my labor going back to the Northwestern community, improving the lot of our students and exercising the skills I've developed here."*

*"If I don't have 6th year funding, I would need to work full time at a local community college. Working full time there (three classes per semester), I would earn just shy of \$6,000 per semester, which means that I would be working full time for about 1/2 - 2/3 my NU funding. Add to this that it's extremely difficult to get dissertation work done while working full time to teach full sections of students."*

*"My fieldwork took place in Year 5. Without 6th year funding, I would have needed to secure outside employment during the writing of my dissertation. 6th year funding allowed me to not only make good progress towards the writing of my dissertation, but also gave me time to write the fellowship applications that led to my securing a 7th year via an external writing award, as well as the time to devote to job applications during my 7th year. Without 6th year funding, I would not have been able to secure 7th year funding or subsequent employment, and since I would have been required to work while writing my dissertation, I most likely would have taken 8 years or more to graduate. It would have been impossible to devote time to employment, dissertation writing, fellowship applications, and job applications at the same time. As it is, 6th year funding plus a 7th year of external funds have allowed me to graduate in 2019, and allowed me to spend enough time on my job search that I was able to secure a post-doctoral position for the next two years."*

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*"It won't impact me much because i am not funded by the university. This is more a gesture of solidarity to my others graduate student comrades that struggle for a decent livelihood in this campus."*

*"As an international student, the first direct impact relates to my visa status: without funding my visa will not be renewed. In addition, as the letter states, as a researcher in the Comparative Politics field I need to carry out field work across several countries. This takes time! "*

*"I am a sixth year student in comparative politics. When I was a prospective student visiting Northwestern, I was compelled to choose this department in large part because I felt that I would be financially secure and that I would enjoy funding opportunities that would allow me to pursue field and in-depth research. This type of research would underlie the kind of qualitative and mixed-method project I hoped to undertake, similar to that of the faculty I hoped to work with.*

*"My perceptions were congruent with the reality that unfolded: I received support from the Buffett center to undertake exploratory fieldwork in the summer after my first year--support that no external funder would provide in such early stages. This experience was directly related to my ability to apply for and receive external funding for further summer fieldwork the following year, which in turn supported my ability to write a prospectus and grant proposals characterized by research questions that were grounded and feasible to pursue further field research. In my fourth year, I conducted this research with the support of both internal and external funding. But the research does not end in the field: more has been carried out in the course of my fifth and sixth years, even as I write my dissertation. To meet the demands of our discipline for demonstrating descriptive and causal inference, the iterative process of research and writing is always ongoing.*

*All the while, I am doing work additional to my dissertation in order to be a competitive candidate on the job market. This has meant that I have spent two years composing, workshopping, rewriting, and submitting to journals an article that has been, most recently, re-submitted after receiving an "R&R" from a top journal in the discipline. The time to acceptance of this article is as yet unknown.*

*Finally, I am someone who has taken at face value The Graduate School's recently expanded support for family life. I was grateful for the quarter-long maternity leave and am enjoying the other sources of support offered to graduate student parents such as the professional development grants that allow me to cover caregiving while continuing to participate in the conferences and workshops that enhance my knowledge, networks, and competitiveness. Still, having a baby is incredibly consuming as any parent knows. I am restricted to short weekday hours; any additional efforts (e.g. taking on additional part-time jobs) are out of the question if I hope to complete my degree within the next two years while maintaining my--and my baby's--health and wellbeing."*

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*"It meant that I was able to stay in the program and complete my dissertation in time. Without it, I would have become homeless, had to move in with my parents out of state, begin working a day job unrelated to my degree and taken much longer to finish my PhD if I could have finished at all. With it, I had the support of my committee and colleagues and was able to stay on campus, focus on my work, and produce my dissertation. I spent 18 months conducting a very thorough ethnography with 100 interviews— I expedited my dissertation prospectus proposal process so that I began my fieldwork in the second quarter of my fourth year and moved back to Evanston at the end of my fifth year. Creating such an extensive repertoire of data is crucial to rigorous qualitative research and I could only do so knowing I'd have the time for coding and analysis prior to writing by having sixth year funding."*

*"I have 6th year funding and I feel incredibly grateful. I don't think I would be confident in my ability to complete my doctoral program without it."*

*"As a qualitative sociologist who primarily relies on interviews and fieldwork, my research is time-consuming. Thus, only having 5 years of funding places burdens and barriers to the research design, data collection, and final product of my work. An additional year for me would alleviate those concerns, but also help improve my research."*

*"Assuming I was not rewarded a fellowship by the fourth year, I would have to determine whether I could realistically graduate on time."*

*"It would definitely make me reassess the formation of my dissertation proposal and ability to go on the academic job market."*

*"Not having enough time to collect good data for my dissertation, as well as think about my prospectus."*

*"It will plunge me and my husband into financial insecurity, and undoubtedly diminish the quality of my dissertation if I am required to find outside work."*

*"The looming possibility of a 6th year without funding is a constant source of anxiety. I have started thinking about my dissertation in terms of how to complete it most quickly, not what is the best intellectual approach. While I am somewhat comforted by the possibility of "banking" quarters (doing extra work now for funding in the future), even if I can secure enough opportunities to bank the 6th year it means that I will work throughout my 5th year, which is supposed to be a fellowship year so we can make serious progress on the dissertation."*

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*"Sixth year funding can make me have more time writing good essays and solving more problems, which will make me more competitive in the job market of postdoc."*

*"I am not in a position to graduate this year and get an academic position. If I did not have sixth year funding I would have to graduate this year and leave academia."*

*"Fortunately I have been able to secure an internship and complete my thesis by the end of the fifth year, but in a PhD program you never know how your academic research or job hunting will go and how much time you might need to finish. Knowing that your financial security is not guaranteed can be just one more stress factor in an environment which is stressful enough by itself."*

*"I would say 6th year funding is significantly important to me. I can then fully devoted myself to research without worrying funding and life quality."*

*"If I were not able to have a funded sixth year, I am not confident I could finish my thesis with enough time to find a job."*

*"If there is no 6th year funding, I would have very limited time to finish my thesis or find a postdoc."*

*"I have sixth year funding, which I may or may not use, but I think international students should not be discriminated against. Also, even if the university cannot guarantee sixth year funding for all students( after all, not everyone needs it and I understand not wanting to incentivize people taking six years when they could finish and get postdocs of equally high quality in 5)there should be a process to apply for a sixth year that finishes before April 15, so students who do not get postdoc offers can still have the security of knowing they will not have to drop out of academia at the same time as those successful in the job search. As the funding normally comes through in the summer, this would remove several months of stress, without changing the amount the university spends."*

*"The absence of 6th year funding would mean a complete loss of financial support for me, as I am an international student, and I am not allowed to work outside of the university. Guaranteed 6th year funding is both a financial and a mental secure."*

*"Ultimately I think this would make or break my likelihood of finishing a thesis. I don't have a green card or the finances to stay in the US if I was required to complete my PhD beyond the fifth year (highly likely) without funding."*

*"Not having sixth year funding would have a severe impact on the majority of graduate students at Northwestern. External fellowships are highly competitive, and when students do not secure them it is in the university's best interest to fully fund them so that they can complete their degree with a dissertation of the highest quality."*

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*"I am currently in India on an external language fellowship which was absolutely vital for me to be able to successfully undertake archival research on my dissertation topic. However, as a result, I am one year behind my cohort, and will certainly not be able to finish my PhD within 5 years. Having guaranteed sixth year funding would be a great relief for me and allow me to focus on completing my research and dissertation rather than worrying about how to acquire additional years of funding. Also, according to TGS policy I will be placed on academic probation when I return and will be required to complete all of my qualifying exams within 2 quarters. These policies unfairly penalize students who study the non-English speaking world, and require deep knowledge of less commonly taught languages prior to conducting research. Sixth year funding is necessary to level the playing field and ensure all students regardless of personal background or regional focus can do their jobs, and do them well!"*

*"I study the Medieval Indian Ocean world, which necessitates mastery in Classical Arabic and, in the best case scenario, Persian as well. Though the Arabic language offerings at Northwestern are adequate, there is by no means enough structure in place for advanced and in-depth study of non-traditional languages for graduate students. This lacuna necessitates students to seek outside help in language study which affects the time it takes to reach graduate milestones, such as the dissertation prospectus and access to archival material. With these barriers to navigate, the 'classic' model of a five-year funded graduate career is not only insufficient, but risks affecting student research and output to the point that our graduates might not be at the same linguistic level as graduates from other programs with stronger philological and linguistic programs. Providing sixth-year funding would be a step in both recognizing these additional hurdles that Humanities graduate students face and offering them the best institutional, mental, and literal support necessary to pursue their research to the best of their abilities."*

*"It was the difference of me staying in the country to continue my research and being forced to leave the US."*

*"Thanks to receiving a prestigious national fellowship, I have been able to "bank" three quarters of TGS funding for my sixth year (excluding the summer). This is a huge relief, although I'm already starting to worry about how I will support myself during that summer following my sixth year. As a medievalist, my research requires reading in multiple languages (German, French, Latin, and medieval German) and I had to learn the necessary palaeography skills to read the documents I'm relying on. All of these skills, above and beyond the mastery of research techniques and the time it takes to read the sources, mean that there is simply no way I could complete a high-quality dissertation in five years. My advisor doesn't expect me to finish that quickly, and I don't feel like the History Department does either. But the lack of certainty around sixth year funding is a clear message that the university wants me to finish so quickly and does not understand the realities of the PhD for humanities students."*



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*"The lack of funding for a 6th year may prevent me from completing a masters in statistics which is highly important for my professional trajectory."*

*"Not having 6th year funding would mean that I would have to work a full time job while trying to complete my dissertation, taking longer to degree completion. It would also mean that I would not be able to focus on applying to jobs and getting out publications."*

*"I am one of qualitative, ethnographically-focused sociology students that was mentioned above. The most influential and inspiring work that I have read and seen impact the communities around me has come from scholars (many from our department) who have had the opportunity to thoroughly and thoughtfully carry out projects while in graduate school. Attempting to emulate this type of scholarship was one of the main reasons that I decided to pursue a graduate education in the first place. Not having access to 6th year funding would seriously impact the quality of the work I would be able to produce, and it would cause an additional stress for the later years about how and where to seek funding. Thank you so much for your consideration!"*

*"More time to work on my research, attend conferences, and look for a job. It would be very helpful toward finishing my dissertation."*

*"Getting a degree is good. Being hired and using that degree is better. I will be able to finish the coursework in 5 years, but in order to make myself marketable and competitive in this field, I will need additional qualifications. I will need to attend more conferences, publish more, and have a higher proficiency in Russian than is possible while completing the coursework in 5 years. An additional year of funding will make me more competitive in the field and allow me to focus on developing teaching skills."*

*"Having 6th year funding would positively affect my academic work because I would have enough time to develop my research to its fullest extent. It would also positively impact my mental and physical health, knowing that I will have access to a salary and healthcare as I finish my degree."*

*"I would be unable to finish my dissertation without 6th year funding and would be without means to support myself and my two children."*

*"I wouldn't be able to finish the degree, and could potentially have my life uprooted."*

*"Without 6th year funding, I would not be able to dedicate sufficient attention toward completing my dissertation and applying for future positions, as I'd have to work full-time outside of academia, in addition to fulfilling PhD responsibilities."*

*"It would render me less prepared for the job market."*

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*"It would mean I'd be unable to finish my dissertation. It also means I will be less likely to pursue language and paleography training that's essential for my research and becoming a stronger candidate for the job market."*

*"Ability to finish my dissertation. Without the health insurance that is part of funding, I would have had to suspend my writing and research, perhaps permanently, to take a full time job with health benefits."*

*"Not having sixth year funding would simply mean that the quality and rigor of my dissertation would be compromised. In addition, my ability to participate professionally in my field—by publishing, attending and presenting at conferences, and writing reviews—would suffer, negatively affecting my future competitiveness for jobs. Of course, our ability to secure post-graduation jobs in our field is essential. Without them, we have to suspend or end our work as art historians. In large part, I chose to attend Northwestern because of the excellence of the alumni I knew, and because of the promise for sustained and rigorous scholarship and the chance to be highly competitive for the top post-graduate positions in the field. If this commitment to training excellent art historians lapses, I can only imagine that future students may not be so eager to attend Northwestern."*

*"Without 6th year funding, my dissertation will be impossible to finish. My project requires language study and extensive archival research abroad, both of which will make it unreasonable to complete my dissertation in five years. I have watched talented and brilliant colleagues struggle with the anxiety of not knowing whether they will have the financial support to keep going, and the expectation of this instability makes it impossible to plan for the future of my own project. These financial struggles make my field less diverse and our campus less just, since this issue is most difficult for students who support families, or do not come from high-income backgrounds."*

*"The dissertation process in the Art History department at NU is not designed to be conducted within a three year timeline. Because the first two years are dedicated to intensive coursework and TA experience and the third year to writing prospectuses and studying for our oral exams, only in our fourth year are we able to begin exploring and developing our dissertation topic. The vast majority of students in Art History do not defend their dissertations until their seventh year in the program. This means that without a sixth year of funding, it is extremely likely that I will be unable to complete the dissertation in full. I would be forced to seek the already limited possibilities of external funding or begin working full time to secure a livable income. If I had 6th year funding, I would be able to take care of myself mentally and financially, while dedicating the year fully to writing and editing my dissertation, furthering scholarship in my field and promoting the faculty and pedagogical program at Northwestern in doing so."*

*"A potential ability to teach my own course, specialize and refine skills necessary to be on the most competitive job market there has been."*

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*"Not having guaranteed sixth year funding is equivalent to forcing me to produce shoddy work, below the standard expected by Northwestern's reputation, in order to avoid being homeless. Those are not adequate choices. I expect more from this institution, as I know it expects more from me."*

*"Not having 6th year funding would put me in a precarious position. As I study African history, I am committed to learning vernacular languages and conducting in-depth field research, both of which are time-consuming endeavors. Asking a graduate worker to finish writing a meaningful dissertation based on deep research within 5 years is simply unrealistic. Having 6th year funding would allow me to properly process my field research and develop a written product that I am proud of."*

*"Sixth-year funding would enable me to do the necessary fieldwork and language training to complete an African history PhD. If I do not secure sixth-year funding, I will simply leave the program. It would be akin to asking a chemist to finish their degree without conducting any experiments."*

*"It will help make my completion feasible."*

*"It'll ensure that I'll have an ample amount of time to prepare for competitive job applications while finishing my dissertation."*

*"If I had 6th year funding, I could master more languages for my primary source research and write a good dissertation which neither I nor my advisor and department would be ashamed of. "*

*"I am working in 5 languages for my dissertation (English, German, Dutch, Afrikaans and Khoekhoegowab), the last 3 of which have required ongoing training during graduate school. My archival and oral history project on anti-colonial resistance in 19th- and 20th-century Namibia takes time to execute, and the sixth year of funding is essential. I am lucky to have received an external grant to guarantee my sixth year, and without this guarantee it would be impossible to finish my dissertation. For my fellow graduate students and the future of graduate scholarship and rigorous research at Northwestern, I ask the university to recognize the necessity of 6th year funding for PhD students, particularly those in the humanities and social sciences."*

*"Secured funding for my sixth year means time to complete and refine my research. It means time to prepare essential documents for an extremely competitive job market."*

*"peace of mind"*

*"Supposedly, students are busy with writing their dissertations in their 6th year. It is already stressful enough. Lack of funding will be killing."*

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*"I have been extremely lucky to receive fellowships for my 4th and 7th year. I was able to bank my NU funding in order to have my 6th year. Without that time, I would not have been able to complete my dissertation. Earning a degree in the humanities, particularly if you work on a topic that requires travel outside of the United States, takes time. I would have been unable to carry out a project with significant academic claims, let alone finish at all, without a 6th AND 7th year."*

*"I secured a 6th year funding when I was awarded an external fellowship in my 4th year. It provided me with significant psychological and work-related advantages: it relieved many anxieties and allowed me to focus on my work during my fifth year."*

*"I am a disabled historian who works on British imperial counterinsurgency covering conflicts in Ireland, Palestine, Malaya, Kenya, Cyprus, Oman, and Northern Ireland. The job market has made it necessary for historians to work on ambitious global projects that break new ground. This kind of work is not possible for historians who need a least one year of archival research, and a few years of writing and teaching. Our experience as graduate students is not only about our projects, our coursework and our exams. We are also teachers, and we work really hard to focus on our students and provide content specific support and advanced writing help. We also must constantly seek research grants and fellowships. For the job market we push ourselves to write articles for publication and present at many different conferences. A sixth year would give us time to fulfil all of these different obligations. On a personal note while doing all of this, I've also had to contend with a severe disability and spinal surgery. I am a good historian, and my disability does not impact my ability to work on my chosen project, but lack of financial security during my sixth year would severely impact my ability to finish. A sixth year of funding would help disabled grad students like me feel more secure as they write their dissertations. I spend about half of my stipend on medical care. Not knowing if I will have funding or health care is terrifying for someone with my condition. Without my medicine and treatments I cannot walk or function. If I don't receive funding for my last year my medical needs mean that I will have to leave the program and get a job that would provide the necessary funding I need just to survive day to day. If Northwestern is really interested in diversity and inclusion, courting disabled graduate students is a must. People with disabilities need the security of a sixth year of funding, and their ideas, voices and teaching abilities are really needed on our campus. Right now Northwestern is not providing a realistic program structure for disabled grad students and that continues to undermine the university's commitment to diversity on campus. Sixth year funding is essential."*

*"I have external funding, but if I didn't, I'm not sure how I would have finished my dissertation."*

*"Sixth year funding provides time for finishing research and the dissertation, but also more time for pursuing the professional development necessary for the transition from graduate student to employee (tenure track, alt ac, other opportunities)."*

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*"It will not change my experience. I've been incredibly lucky in securing outside funding and so do not need it. But I know just how lucky that was."*

*"I would be better able to navigate this horrid job market."*

*"Because of a competitive outside offer, I was able to negotiate and have six years of funding guaranteed when I started at Northwestern. Since I had just returned from my research year and had hardly started writing, I would not have been ready to go on the academic job market at the beginning of my fifth year. I went on the academic job market at the beginning of my sixth year and secured three prestigious offers. It would not have been possible without six years of funding. Students shouldn't have to have competitive outside offers when they enter like I did in order for Northwestern to promise the proper amount of funding to complete their degrees."*

*"Not having a 6th year of funding would be very stressful for me because it would force me into the job market, regardless if the job is related to my interests as a musician and composer. As the primary source of income in my family, I rely entirely on my stipend to make ends meet. It allows me to focus on my research as a composer. At a critical stage in the development of my creative voice as well as the development of my career, an additional year of funding would provide me with the opportunity to continue making contributions to the artistic community, which will ultimately be a positive indication of Northwestern's support for that community."*

*"It would mean a phenomenally better final product (dissertation)- I would have the time necessary to complete the project to the best of my ability."*

*"The lack of access to sixth year funding given the expectations of the theory and cognition PhD makes Northwestern University seem like a less attractive option than comparable programs that provide the flexibility needed to focus on difficult research."*

*"1) It would extend my professional opportunities through the school and help ensure unique educational resources for longer. 2) I would have a safety net to fall back on in case it is impossible to finish by the end of summer. 3) It will also help me enter the job market and prepare better while I wrap up my studies."*

*"Without a sixth year of funding, I would find it difficult if not impossible to acquire the requisite language skills for my dissertation research. Nor would I be able to pursue study and/or research opportunities abroad (as I hope to do in my fourth year)."*

*"A 6th year of funding would allow me time to complete the study of French or Latin necessary for the fulfillment of my degree without relying on one to two years of external fellowship and simultaneously allow me a better chance of winning a prestigious fellowship with the extra time."*

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*"Without 6th-year funding, I would be unable to acquire the language skills I require to conduct my dissertation research."*

*"It would enable me to conduct the additional research I need to do to finish my dissertation. Most importantly, it would help me stay focused on my applications for postdocs and jobs in the upcoming job market period, instead of worrying about my financial situation and health insurance. 6th year funding is not merely supplementary to the completion of my degree; it is ESSENTIAL."*

*"It enabled me to work on my research without having to stress about finding a source of funding."*

*"Have I not had access to 6th year funding would have put my stay in the USA and at NU at threat. Because I don't have any savings, I don't know how I would have been able to renew my visa to stay here."*

*"As stated in the letter, without 6th year funding which means I would have to forfeit an in-depth research and professional development. And the implication? A degree without the extraordinary depth that gives a research interest an edge in the job market."*

*"I won't be able to finish my dissertation. If I receive the 6th year funding, I will work forcefully toward the external fellowships, in addition to writing my dissertation."*

*"Have I not had access to 6th year funding would have put my stay in the USA and at NU at threat. Because I don't have any savings, I don't know how I would have been able to renew my visa to stay here."*

*"Loss of funding in advanced years makes it harder to finish and compete on the job market."*

*"I did not have it or need it, but believe it would be helpful."*

*"Not being prepared to go on a competitive job market."*

*"Unprepared for the job market, with not enough of the publications we are now expected to have before graduation. More likely to get stuck in an adjunct job with too high of a teaching load to publish and succeed at attaining a TT position."*

*"Gain professional goals/milestones necessary in the US market; create/reinforce networks of scholars across the Atlantic; write a much stronger dissertation by conducting a rigorous analysis of my archival material -thus being able to defend my thesis philologically; be present on US soil when job hunting."*

# IMPACT STATEMENTS

*"I came in without an MA, and the section on that in the letter is absolutely representative of my experience."*

*"I have managed to get a GA ship that gives me a sixth year of funding, but the extended workload it produces means very little of my academic work gets done. There is only so much life in graduate school allows me to extend myself, and the amount of work necessary to gain 6th year funding and complete my grad work in an adequate manner has taken a load on my professional and personal life."*

*"As a student who entered Northwestern straight from my undergraduate years, I am already keenly aware of the tight timeline before me if I intend to complete both my MA and PhD requirements within five years. Having a guaranteed sixth year of funding would mean getting the time to develop and revise my work to its highest potential rather than rushing through a checklist of deadlines in order to avoid running out of funded time."*

*"A 6th year funding would enable a better researched thesis."*

*"It would impact my dissertation process and teaching opportunities as I work to build my professional portfolio."*

*"As a mother of a toddler, not having 6 year funding means I will probably have to move away from Evanston in order to find employment. That means taking away time from finishing my dissertation and going on the academic job market."*

*"The ability to use the Crown fellowship for my fifth year, and to bank my fifth year funding into a sixth year was crucial for finishing my dissertation and setting myself up for success on the job market. I want to express my support for the ability to bank fifth year funding into a sixth year when students have received an external fellowship."*

*"I'm an international student working on the history of American theatre. Not having 6th year funding means that my visa will expire at the end of my 5th year and I will be forced to leave the United States. Outside of the U.S. I would not find the primary and secondary sources I need to finish my dissertation."*

*"I have 6 year funding, meaning that I had to interrupt my progress in my 5th year to complete a graduate assistantship. I am deeply stressed by the fear that my banked funding will disappear over the summer as funding shifts come with no consideration for matriculation year. Without this sixth year funding, I cannot complete my dissertation project."*

# IMPACT STATEMENTS

*"Without 6th year funding, finishing my dissertation will be a struggle."*

*"Having 6th year funding means that I do not need to sacrifice the quality of my research and writing for lack of time."*

*"6th year funding allowed me to successfully complete my dissertation and pursue the academic job market with rigor. The 6th year was absolutely crucial for my success, having landed a tenure track position. It would not have been possible by any means to accomplish what I could accomplish this year in only 5 years. My peers absolutely deserve and require 6th year funding in order to complete their degrees and pursue the job market with success and relative ease of mind."*

*"I have a research project that required me to seek funding to visit multiple archives. I am doing ambitious research and it has come at a price in terms of timeline- funding awarded end of 3rd year, traveled all summer, trying to write two chapters while teaching, traveling again now for my third case study. I need 5th year to write. I need a job to successfully leave. The job market and doing my best writing are not compatible. For me to do my best work at NU and make sure my job placement reflects well on NU Grads rates of success, I need a sixth year."*

*"Since I am an international student I will not be able to make money outside University because of Visa requirements. No funding would mean that I have to leave the country."*

*"Allow me sufficient time to publish/engage in different fellowships/career advancement opportunities."*

*"Not having access to 6th year funding would make it nearly impossible for me to complete my degree. The average time to degree in my department - French and Italian - is about seven years. Securing 6th year funding would mean more time to dedicate to teaching, pedagogical development, dissertation writing, publishing, and job applications. It would mean, in short, a greater likelihood of securing a position in academia and securing a future for myself and my family."*

*"I am an international student. I might have to move back to my country before the completion of my thesis. Having an extra year of funding would certainly relieve me of some stress and allow me to benefit from the help of my department to prepare me for the atrocious job market in the humanities."*

*"It is a basic prerequisite for my to get my degree. It is completely impossible for me to be done after five years. Six years is the bare minimum, and already a challenge."*

*"I'm actually annoyed that we have to justify this. No anthropologist can complete their studies in 5 years. That TGS would water down our training because they can't do math is appalling."*



# IMPACT STATEMENTS

*"I'm in my 4th year and currently working on my dissertation's first chapter. Although I have followed all the requirements determinate by my department, and have been awarded an internal fellowship, I am now left with two years to finish a work that will be of great importance to the advancement of my career in academia. The time necessarily to equip myself with research, writing and teaching tools does not correspond with the present funding plan of Northwestern University. It is evident that 6th year funding has now become de facto effective in our department though that responsibility is delegated to internal or external fellowships. That goes against the tenets of the university to provide equal opportunity for all the students to thrive in the pursuit of their goals. Additionally, the pressure exerted by TGS in capping funding at the fifth year renders applications for external fellowships uninteresting if being awarded a fellowship means that we lose funding previously promised by TGS. For all the reasons listed above, I'm join NUGW and my colleagues across departments in calling on the administration to guarantee sixth year funding for all graduate students."*

*"6th year funding would mean more opportunities, more research, better dissertation, and more chances in the job market."*

*"I would feel safe if Northwestern would guarantee the 6th year funding."*

*"I am an international student, so without a 6th year of funding I would lose my Visa status and need to leave the country and my studies. I will likely need a full 6 years to complete my PhD so that I can build a strong dataset for my research (lab work is time consuming!), and write a dissertation and articles that contribute to my field."*

*"It won't impact me personally, but having an additional year of funding was crucial to get my dissertation and publication record to a place where I could be competitive for job market, and also to extend my visa and remain in the U.S. As many other anthropologists, I conducted 16-months of fieldwork during my fourth and fifth years (funded by external grants), so it would simply have been impossible to graduate within the 5-year timeline."*

*"Having a 6th year of funding gave me the opportunity to publish multiple articles and book chapters in advance of the job market, while leaving sufficient time to prepare a well-written and thorough dissertation. This has afforded a competitive advantage in searching for future positions, that surely would have been lost without 6th year funding."*

*"I am extremely grateful for 6th year funding, which helped me to enter the job market from a strong position, resulting in 3 postdoc offers and a TT assistant professor offer. This would not have been possible if I had had to go on the market immediately after fieldwork, when I had not written enough of my dissertation to be able to pitch it appropriately."*

# IMPACT STATEMENTS

*"If I don't have 6th year funding, I'm not sure I'll be able to finish my degree in Chicago unless I get an additional job to support myself. This will significantly diminish my ability to focus efforts on the job market. In sum, not having 6th year funding will make it far less likely that I successfully obtain employment post-graduation. If I have 6th year funding, I can focus on writing my dissertation in my 5th year, so that during my 6th year I can focus on the job market (while finishing up the project)."*

*"As a staff member, a significant amount of time and energy needs to be directed toward developing new resources for students who are impacted by the funding. It's certainly not the same impact as being a student whose funding is cut, and we should have had these resources to begin with, but rather than supporting a student on his/her/their anticipated timeline, we have to respond to a crisis, create new services without forewarning (which cuts into normal service), and re-build relationships with students without fostering an intra-cohort competitiveness that further hurts students. It's a narrow balance and staff typically don't have the training or managerial support to tackle this challenge (we're lucky in PoliSci to have a larger staff team that is more responsive to change)."*

*"The field of psychological science is experiencing an ongoing methodological revolution to improve our research credibility. This movement, however, is not without unintended side-effects. Although this advancement is critical for the long-term success of the scientific enterprise in the cognitive and behavioral sciences, this movement inadvertently leaves current graduate and junior scholars in a precarious position. Specifically, as a result of the rigorous new publication standards in response to replication crisis, the difficulty to publish in high quality empirical, peer-reviewed journals in psychology has substantially increased. Further, as many of our esteemed academic mentors are less familiar with conducting reproducible research (e.g., open science practices, such as preregistration and open data), graduate scholars are often left to learn these new and complicated methodological customs on their own. Taken together, the credibility revolution in psychological science has slowed graduate researchers from making the necessary progress needed to be competitive on the job market in the typical five-year span. Thus, having the sixth-year available is a necessity for graduate researchers adjusting to changing norms in science. This extension would not only markedly improve the competitiveness of our Ph.D. candidates on the job market, but also enhance the quality of science produced in an era when the demand for credible research is at its highest."*

*"It would mean: a) completing the project of my dissertation with a decent level of quality; b) being able to remain in the United States while doing so; c) not having to overcome the fear that even if, by a miracle, I somehow finish everything before or have external funding it will not still matter in the job market because NU's reputation will be hurt on the mid and long-term anyway."*

*"I am lucky that I have some banked quarters from interdisciplinary graduate assistantships that I can use during my sixth year. Without this, it would not be possible for me to complete a successful dissertation and be competitive on the academic job market, since my research involves extended archival work."*

# IMPACT STATEMENTS

*"If I don't get 6th year funding in some form it is unlikely that I'll be able to complete my PhD as completion in five years is highly unlikely, and since I'm an international student this will also most likely mean my having to leave the US."*

*"It makes it much more difficult to finish. I was successful getting external funding which helped me do a lot of fieldwork, but then TGS took away my banked funding, since I was past my 6th year. I was cut off by TGS before I even finished my full five years of funding."*

*"Without 6th year funding, I will not have a resources to finish my dissertation (or finish a dissertation that is of high quality). Further, without funding in the 6th year I will be financially unable to go on the academic job market. Without funds next year, I would have to find alternate means of employment which would hinder my ability to both apply for and successfully gain academic employment."*

*"From what I understand, since I'm an international student on an F1 Visa, I wouldn't be able to work enough hours elsewhere to support myself and would likely have to leave the country. This would be a difficult time in my program to lose easy access to my advisors, as I'm preparing for interviews and finishing my dissertation."*

*"I am currently in my 5th year, and my department chair has said they still will not have an answer to their ability to fund me until the Spring Quarter. Meanwhile, I'm just trying to get whatever support for next year I can get when I should be working on my dissertation and getting articles published. This is putting publication plans behind, which results in me being weaker on the job market."*

*"As a graduate student working on medieval European visual culture, my research requires that I learn several languages and spend a significant amount of time doing archival research abroad. Without sixth year funding, I would be unable to take the necessary time to both train myself properly in the languages nor compile the research. These are two important factors in my program that would enable me to, first, write a successful dissertation, but even more importantly would allow me to present myself as capable once on the job market. Taking away 6th year funding would ultimately harm student outcomes because we would be forced to complete in five years what normally (in other art history departments of comparable institutions) takes seven to nine years to achieve."*

*"I would not have enough time writing or polishing my dissertation. I would have to rush into the job market without good preparation."*

*"Coming into a Phd with a Bachelor's degree, it is almost certain that I will need a 6th year in order to finish my dissertation. Getting 6th year funding would lift a huge burden on my shoulders, and would absolutely impact and aid my progress in graduate school."*

# IMPACT STATEMENTS

*"I was surprised by TGS changes making 6th year funding significantly harder to receive. Entering the program, nearly all my peers easily got 6th funding through interdisciplinary clusters and I assumed I would follow the same plan. At the end of my 3rd year I was alerted this was not the case which made me change my course plan to finish in 5. This makes me less eager to stay in academia as the 6th year would have been critical for publishing papers and applying for post doc funding that would give me the best chances in academia."*

*"In my field, it is almost impossible to finish in five years unless you previously acquired a terminal master's and make your dissertation a direct continuation of your master's thesis (which doesn't leave a lot of room to grow and change as a scholar), or make huge sacrifices in your intellectual ambition and quality of life to finish in five years. Sixth year funding is essential. I am one of the lucky ones with guaranteed 6th year funding, and it means everything to me. It means being able to give my dissertation the time and attention it deserves while also investing time and energy into growing as a teacher and taking part in other professional development opportunities. It means that I don't have to scale back my ambition for my dissertation in order to finish in time. I am deeply grateful to the institutions, faculty, and administrators at Northwestern who are responsible for my sixth year funding. However, as I watch my colleagues and friends agonize over the uncertainties of sixth year funding, I feel a moral obligation to stand with them to help them get the support they need to finish their important projects without worrying about meeting basic subsistence needs."*

*"Better production both in research and teaching. Rushed work is bad work."*

*"My 6th year of funding was crucial in finishing, especially as the University set new guidelines regarding the years we had banked for funding."*

*"I do not have family funding to rely on, and would have to work while finishing my dissertation. This would result in a later graduation time and impact my ability to apply for jobs at a competitive level."*

*"I am a Canadian citizen. If I had not received sixth year funding I would have been forced to move back to Canada at the end of my fifth year. International students are not permitted to work outside of Northwestern University, except within their field, and getting work permission for Philosophy teaching positions that are external to Northwestern University can be very time consuming and difficult, in addition to the time taken up finding these opportunities and securing the position to begin with. In addition, international students must receive independent permission to work for each place of employment and each separate contract within the same place of employment. So, the time and energy that would be required to secure both employment and the permission to be employed would be exceptionally time consuming and given the way adjunct positions work, would be ongoing. Northwestern's employment opportunities do not pay enough that I could have worked somewhere on campus while also working to complete my dissertation."*

# IMPACT STATEMENTS

*"Ultimately I think this would make or break my likelihood of finishing a thesis. I don't have a green card or the finances to stay in the US if I was required to complete my PhD beyond the fifth year (highly likely) without funding."*

*"I will most probably be taking a sixth year -- without it, my thesis would likely not come together the way I'd like it to, and my future job prospects would probably be slim."*

*"Ability to finish my dissertation. Without the health insurance that is part of funding, I would have had to suspend my writing and research, perhaps permanently, to take a full time job with health benefits."*

