The Bankard Fund for Political Economy was established with gifts by Merrill H. Bankard and his wife, Georgia S. Bankard. The donors specified that income from the Fund should supplement state appropriations and be used only for scholarly enrichment. Income from the Fund is to be used exclusively to support research programs at the University of Virginia that will have the greatest possible influence upon the development and continuation of the public policy necessary for a healthy private business system and a healthy national economy.

The Bankard Committee invites proposals for $15,000 doctoral student research awards during 2017-2018. This award will be disbursed as follows: $5,000 will be disbursed in summer 2017 and the remaining $10,000 will be disbursed either during the fall 2017 semester or during the spring 2018 semester. The focus of research projects must be consistent with the objective of the Bankard Fund as stated above.

Fellowship Restrictions include:

1. Students may receive only one fellowship; previous recipients may not apply.
2. Recipients are expected to devote most of their energy to their research during the period of the award, which will span summer 2017 and one academic term in 2017-2018. Hence, recipients may not accept employment (including TA assignments) during the summer of 2017 and the academic term in which the student receives the Bankard award (either the fall 2017 semester or the spring 2018 semester of 2017-2018), and must devote the same periods full-time to their research.
3. Recipients must inform the Bankard Committee of other sources of funding. The Committee will allow the Bankard Fellowship to be deferred for one year (i.e. deferred to 2018-19) to allow students to accept other funding, but the fellowship funds may not be received simultaneously with other research funding.
4. Any publications arising from the research project should acknowledge the support of the Bankard Fund.
5. To be eligible for a Bankard Fellowship, a student must formally be of “all but dissertation” (ABD) status and have a dissertation topic that has been approved by his/her Department by Friday, November 11, 2016.

Academic Departments or Schools should submit proposals on behalf of their doctoral students. **** Submit one copy of your proposal package as a single PDF file. Please upload your package here: http://www.virginia.edu/vpr/upload.html, select Bankard Predoctoral Fellowships from the drop down menu by noon Friday, November 11, 2016.

Submissions should include a cover letter from the Department’s or School’s Director of Graduate Studies evaluating/ranking proposals as well as confirming each student’s ABD status with an approved dissertation topic. In particular, the cover letter should articulate the rationale for recommending each project proposal, including how well it meets the goals of the Bankard fund.

For each student applicant, submissions should include:

a. A letter of support from the student’s dissertation advisor;
b. Student’s transcript or academic requirements;
c. Student’s curriculum vitae;
d. Student’s project proposal (format described below);

Student project proposals should be limited to two pages (either single- or double-spaced) and should include:
   a. Statement of the research problem;
   b. Discussion of its background, significance, and its relation to the Bankard Fund’s objective;
   c. Description of the research design or methodology;
   d. Expected research outcome(s);
   e. Timetable for the research.

Questions should be referred to Ms. Mollie Iseli at 924-3606 or mjm8k@virginia.edu.