

July 11, 2007

Dear Students,

This is to inform you that, as of now, all graduate students who are US citizens or permanent residents will be required to fill out a FAFSA (need-based financial aid form) beginning in January of the first year of residence in the German Studies PhD program.

Important information:

-This does *not* mean that your funding will be dependent upon financial need; you retain the five-year offer of support outlined in your letter of acceptance. On the other hand, this will significantly affect the department's overall ability to support students, including you. In other words, as a result of this policy, we expect to have more funds to support graduate students.

-This is now a requirement. Students who do not complete the form annually will render themselves ineligible for any kind of support.

-The form can be completed online and is free. Go to www.fafsa.ed.gov

-All you need is the previous year's tax return.

-You do not need to report your parents' information

-The information you provide is confidential and will not be revealed to anyone in the Department

-Students entering the program do not need to complete this form until January of their first year of residence.

-Again, this applies to US citizens and permanent residents only

For questions about the FAFSA, please contact:

Ms. Betty B. Jones,

Director of the Office of Graduate Financial Aid

116 Allen Building,

phone: 684-5708

email: gfabbj@duke.edu

I realize this is one more bureaucratic hurdle, and I thank you for doing this. The good news is that I expect tangible results for all of us. I will discuss this further at our first meeting in August. Until then, I am grateful for your generosity and good cheer.

Gratefully,

William Collins Donahue
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