

Mehdi Mousavi  
1329 Hope Road, North Vancouver,  
BC V7P1W6  
437-217-5484  
[mousavi@udel.edu](mailto:mousavi@udel.edu)

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The Elahé Omidyar Mir-Djalali Institute of Iranian Studies  
The University of Toronto

Dear committee members,

I'd like to express my interest in the Elahé Omidyar Mir-Djalali Dissertation Completion Fellowship and feel that my educational background in Middle Eastern and Iranian history qualifies me for the award. I received my master's degree in history from the University of Delaware in 2019, and I am currently finishing up my dissertation at the same institution. I previously obtained a master's degree in Middle Eastern studies from the University of Strasbourg in France in 2015. My thorough research into Franco-Iranian relations in the Iranian and French archives, analyzing archival materials, revealed previously unknown and unexplored aspects of the two countries' relationship, Iranian perceptions of French culture, and France's long-term policy towards Iran. As the completion of my dissertation work is nearing, my mentor Dr. Rudi Matthee encouraged me to apply for this fellowship.

I believe that this fellowship enables me to conduct a more extensive and in-depth research and to better present my work as a major contribution to Iranian studies. I'd also like to expand my knowledge by interacting with academics at the Elahé Omidyar Mir-Djalali Institute at the University of Toronto.

I look forward to using this opportunity to gain experience and make an impact on this field of study. As a PhD candidate, I am eager to contribute research to other students in this field. My attached CV provides further details about my background and experience. Thank you for considering my application, and I look forward to hearing more about the Elahé Omidyar Mir-Djalali Dissertation Completion Fellowship.

Sincerely,

Mehdi Mousavi