Andrew W. Mellon Student Research Fellowship

Designing a Research-Intensive Undergraduate Curriculum in the Arts, Humanities, and Humanistic Social Sciences

Occidental College, 2019 Guidelines

The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation is pleased to fund two summer fellowships for undergraduates conducting original research in the arts, humanities, or humanistic social sciences. The proposed research must involve digital research methods or community-based research in collaboration with a Los Angeles arts, cultural, or community organization.

Students interested in applying for these fellowships need not come exclusively from an arts, humanities, or social sciences field; however, the proposed research must be executed within an arts, humanities, or humanistic social sciences framework.

The Mellon Student Fellows will participate in the ten-week Summer Research Program offered by the Undergraduate Research Center (URC). They will also receive a research stipend, subsidized housing (based on financial need), and a small budget for research expenses.

Application Process

Each application must include:

- Cover sheet*
- Your resume
- Project proposal
- Personal statement
- Proposed budget (if research expense support is requested)
- Faculty mentor’s letter of recommendation specifying his/her role in mentoring you on this project*

The deadline for the Mellon Student Research Fellowship is 4pm on Monday, February 11, 2019.

You must submit your completed application to the URC Office by the deadline for it to be considered for funding.

Visit the URC website for tips on preparing each of these application components.

Your complete application packet is due by 4pm on the deadline to the URC Office. The URC is located in the Library: Room 253A. The entrance to Room 253A is through the Cumberland Reading Room, on the main floor (Old Wing).

You will be notified by Spring Break whether your project has been selected for funding so that you can plan your summer accordingly.

Please direct any questions about the Mellon Student Research Fellowship to Rithika Mukerjee @ rmukerjee@oxy.edu (Mellon Grants Administrator, Academic Affairs)

* Link is password protected. You may need to enter your OxyConnect User ID and Password to access this document once you’ve clicked on the link.
Financial Support

Research Stipend

Mellon Student Research Fellows will receive a stipend of $4,000 for ten weeks of full-time work. There is also a small amount of additional funding available to cover research expenses. Generally, the amount awarded for summer research is taxable, but the College is not obligated to withhold taxes or send an IRS Form-1099. Students should keep a copy of their contract as part of their tax records and talk with a tax advisor about questions concerning their individual tax liability.

College-Subsidized Room and Board Support

Mellon Student Research Fellows are eligible for subsidized room and board during the ten weeks of the Summer Research Program. The amount of the subsidy will be based on financial need.

On-campus housing may be available prior to and shortly after the program; however, no subsidies are offered for those weeks, and arrangements must be made directly through Residence Life.

Expectations

The Mellon Student Research Fellowship Program expects close collaboration between Mellon Student Fellows and their faculty mentors, as well as interaction between Fellows with their peer researchers in the summer program. Cross-disciplinary exchange will also be facilitated by attendance at the URC’s lunchtime plenary gatherings, featuring guest speakers, lab tours, and round-table discussion.

Mellon Student Research Fellows are expected to:

- Make a full-time, exclusive commitment for the specified ten weeks of the Summer Research Program
- Participate in research ethics training
- Participate in all URC area meetings and plenary gatherings
- Attend regular on-campus meetings with the mentor
- Participate in the assessment effort
- Submit an abstract of the work for posting to the OxyScholar website
- Submit a 5-10 page final report to the URC, the faculty mentor, and Rithika Mukerjee (Mellon Grants Administrator). Fellows will receive the final stipend payment only after this report has been submitted.
- Present the results of their research at the Oxy Summer Research Conference (typically in early August)
- If appropriate, present at the fall SCCUR conference following completion of the research. Fellows may also consider presenting their work at the NCUR meeting in the spring.