Andrew W. Mellon Student Research Fellowship
Arts and Technology Initiative
Occidental College, 2021 Guidelines

The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation is pleased to fund three student research or internship fellowships for summer 2021. Research or internship proposals should propose original, arts-based projects related to the arts and technology. Projects proposing collaboration with faculty research projects, community partners, local arts organizations (archives, museums), and/or local arts practitioners are highly encouraged.

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, housing allowance, and a small budget for project expenses.

Application Process

Each application must include:
- Cover sheet*
- Your resume
- Project proposal
- Personal statement (explaining why you are interested in the program (research or internship) you are applying for, what skills you bring, and what you hope to learn at your preferred site; share your future educational and professional plans and how this fellowship can help to support these plans. Also include information about any other related internship or volunteer experiences)
- Proposed budget (if project expense support is requested)
- Faculty mentor’s letter of recommendation (can be submitted separately)

The deadline for the Mellon Student Research/Internship Fellowship is 4pm on February 8, 2021.

You must submit your completed application to the Mellon Grants Administrator at rmukerjee@oxy.edu by the deadline for it to be considered for funding.

Your complete application packet should be submitted as a single document to Mellon Grants Administrator Rithika Mukerjee-Mora at rmukerjee@oxy.edu by 4pm on the deadline. Application documents may be merged in to a single document using online tools such as https://docupub.com/pdfmerge/.

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 rmukerjee@oxy.edu.

A note about the pandemic: At this time, the URC is planning for an in-person summer research program with the ability to stay on-campus for meetings and research. However, these plans may change depending on state and federal health regulations for summer 2021. We will keep you posted if plans change and would advise you to discuss alternate plans with your faculty mentor in case you need to conduct research remotely.

* 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 Fellows will receive a stipend of $4,500 for ten weeks of full-time work. There is also a small amount of funding available to cover project expenses.

Research stipends are generally taxable. Keep a copy of your contract for your tax records and talk with a tax advisor if you have questions about your specific tax liability.

Room and Board Support
Mellon Student Fellows will receive a housing allowance of $2,500 each to support housing costs on or off-campus for the duration of the program.

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

Expectations
The Mellon Arts and Technology 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 (tentative dates: June 1 - August 6, 2021)
- Participate in research ethics training
- Participate in all URC area meetings and plenary gatherings
- Participate in weekly meetings with faculty mentors and other interns (if applicable) to discuss any assigned readings and reflect on the research/internship experience
- Participate in the assessment effort
- Submit an abstract of the work for posting to the OxyScholar website
- Submit a 5-10 page final report or the results of your creative project to the URC, the faculty mentor, and Rithika Mukerjee (Mellon Grants Administrator). Fellows will receive the final stipend payment only after the submission is received.
- Present at the Oxy Summer Research Conference on August 4, 2021 (tentative date)
- 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.