

# **Mellon Mays Undergraduate Fellowship at Carleton College**

## **Application Requirements**

**Cohort XXVI: 2013-2014**



**Dr. Benjamin E. Mays**

### **Program Mission & Benefits**

The Mellon Mays Undergraduate Fellowship (MMUF) Program was established in 1988 by the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation in partnership with a select group of undergraduate colleges and universities. Open to all students, the Program was designed to increase the flow of scholars of color and others with a demonstrated commitment to eradicating racial disparities into doctoral degree programs and, eventually, into the ranks of America's professoriate by offering them a sustained opportunity for independent research and individual mentoring as undergraduates. More information about the MMUF Program as a whole may be found at: [www.mmuf.org](http://www.mmuf.org)

Under the Carleton College's Program structure, students usually apply in their sophomore year (juniors are also eligible) and are chosen on the basis of demonstrated intellectual achievement; the quality of their research project proposal; their commitment to pursuing advanced study in their chosen field; and their demonstrated understanding of the Program's goal of diversifying the professoriate in the United States and its significance. The Fellowship lasts throughout the junior and senior years.

If selected as MMUF Fellows, students receive a wide and ongoing range of support designed to foster their intellectual growth and achievement. Perhaps the most important of these is a dedicated community of scholars on campus and nationwide who share their commitment to intellectual excellence, their passion for research, and their desire to see positive change in the academy. More specifically, they may expect:

- (1) faculty and peer mentoring in one-on-one and seminar settings;
- (2) generous academic year research stipend to be used to pursue research during Winter and Spring breaks; senior research fund; and support for GRE preparation.
- (3) a for-credit Mellon research seminar each term that develops research and presentation skills and explores larger issues in higher education as context for knowledge production and as career pathway;
- (4) generous stipend support for summer research activities with a generous travel allowance;
- (5) repayment of up to \$10,000 in undergraduate loans if they pursue doctoral study in Mellon designated disciplines; if undergraduate loans total less than \$10,000, the remainder may be applied to loans for graduate study leading to a Ph.D. in Mellon fields.
- (6) access to other funding and intellectual opportunities later in their graduate and professional career, such as the Social Science Research Council's Pre-doctoral Fellowships and Dissertation Fellowships.

### **Mellon-Designated Fields**

Anthropology, Mathematics, Physics, Computer Science, Demography, Earth Science, Ecology, Geology, Area Studies, Art History, English, Ethnomusicology, Musicology, Philosophy, Classics, Foreign Languages and Literatures, Political Theory, History, Religion, Literature, Sociology

## THE APPLICATION

### 1) Curriculum Vitae/Résumé

- Personal Contact Information
- Title of Proposed Project and Name of Mentor
- Major and coursework relevant to proposed Mellon Project
- Cumulative GPA and GPA in Major; **Note:** Request that Winter Transcript be sent to Mike Hodges
- Honors and Extracurricular Activities at Carleton
- Activism/Community Involvement & Activities related to Teaching/Research
- Ethnicity, Citizenship (US citizenship or Green Card status is **required** for eligibility)

**2) Current Carleton Transcript.** Most MMUF Fellows have a 3.0 or above when selected. Please arrange for your winter transcript to be sent to [wnorth@carleton.edu](mailto:wnorth@carleton.edu) when winter grades become available)

### 3) Initial Research Project Idea (2 pages)

Describe as fully and precisely as you can AT THIS POINT a subject or questions on which you would like to conduct sustained, independent research over the next two years. Don't be afraid to dream big but describe your dreams as precisely as possible and talk about the origins of your interest or possible results that you would like to achieve.

### 4) Personal Statement (ca. 1250 words or 5 pp.)

The personal statement should discuss your interests, experiences, and goals as they relate to your desire to pursue independent research and graduate study in your chosen area.

**5) 2 Faculty Recommendations** (one of which should be from your proposed mentor and should address the feasibility of your project.) **Please note:** Recommendations may be submitted via email to Michael Hodges, Program Assistant, Office of Intercultural Life ([mhodges@carleton.edu](mailto:mhodges@carleton.edu)) or to the coordinators. **The potential mentor's recommendation should comment on the student's scholarly achievement and potential and the feasibility of the proposed project.**

### 6) Personal Interview (Ninth Week of Winter term) (approx. 30 minutes)

During the interview, candidates will be asked questions about:

- their long- and short-term academic interests and goals;
- their project proposal;
- their understanding of the history of the MMUF Program and its goals;
- other relevant topics generated by the material in their applications.

There will be an opportunity for candidates to ask questions about the Program as part of every interview.

### 7) Submission Instructions (Monday, February 24, 2014 by 5 pm)

- All materials should be submitted MMUF Program, c/o Michael Hodges, Office of Intercultural and International Life, Lower Scoville
- **If you find that any portion of your application may not be in by the deadline, PLEASE contact Joy Kluttz or William North directly before the deadline. No late materials can be accepted without prior approval.**
- Recommendations may either be sent directly to the Office or included in a sealed and signed envelope with the other application materials. If necessary, they may also be submitted electronically via email.

**Questions:** Please contact William North (x4202, [wnorth@carleton.edu](mailto:wnorth@carleton.edu)) or Joy Kluttz, Director of the Office of Intercultural Life (x4014, [jkluttz@carleton.edu](mailto:jkluttz@carleton.edu)).