Mellon Mays Undergraduate Fellowship at Carleton College

Application Requirements

Cohort XXIX: 2016-2017

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

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 and Archaeology
- Area/Cultural/Ethnic/Gender Studies
- Art History
- Classics
- Geography and Population Studies
- English
- Film, Cinema and Media Studies (theoretical focus)
- Musicology, Ethnomusicology and Music Theory
- Foreign Languages and Literatures
- History
- Linguistics
- Literature
- Performance Studies (theoretical focus)
- Philosophy and Political Theory
- Religion and Theology
- Sociology
- Theater (theoretical focus)

Interdisciplinary Studies: Interdisciplinary areas of study may be eligible if they have one or more eligible fields at their core, but must be approved by the MMUF staff at the Mellon Foundation on a case-by-case basis. Please note that interdisciplinary education graduate programs, even those that incorporate one or more eligible fields, are not eligible for MMUF graduate benefits.
THE APPLICATION

❖ 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 Michael 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)

❖ 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 when winter grades become available)

❖ Initial Research Project Idea (2 pages or more-length is flexible)
Describe as fully and precisely as you can AT THIS POINT the subject or questions on which you would like to conduct sustained, but evolving, research over the next two years. Don’t be afraid to dream big but describe your dreams as precisely as possible; talk about the origins of your interest; possible or planned methods to pursue them; or end products that you would like to achieve.

❖ 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. We are particularly interested in understanding how you and your goals relate to the MMUF mission to diversify the Academy

❖ 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, Administrative Assistant, Office of Intercultural & International Life (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.

❖ 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.

❖ Submission Deadline (Monday, February 20, 2017 by 5 pm)
- All materials should be submitted to the MMUF Program. An online submission portal will be available.
- 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 be submitted electronically via email to mhodges@carleton.edu or uploaded on the online application page.

Questions: Please contact William North (x4202, wnorth@carleton.edu) or Joy Kluttz, Director of the Office of Intercultural & International Life (x4013, jkluttz@carleton.edu).