

Mellon Fellowships at Carleton College: 2019-2020 Bulletin

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 MMUF program is intended to increase the flow of scholars of color, along with others with a demonstrated commitment to eradicating racial disparities, into doctoral degree programs in the humanities and humanistic social sciences and, eventually, into the ranks of America's professoriate. It pursues this goal by offering fellows a sustained opportunity for independent research and individual mentoring as undergraduates. More information about the MMUF Program as a whole may be found at: <http://www.mmuf.org/>.

The Mellon Graduate School Exploration Fellowship Program was established in 2015 by the Associated Colleges of the Midwest in partnership with the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation and the Big Ten Academic Alliance. Open to all sophomore students, the MGSEF program has similar goals to those of MMUF but is administered somewhat differently. More information about the MGSEF Program as a whole may be found at: https://www.acm.edu/student_programs/GSEF.html.

Under Carleton College's program structure, students usually apply in their sophomore year (juniors may also apply for the MMUF program, **but MGSEF applicants must be sophomores**) 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 (for MMUF, in a Mellon-approved discipline); and their demonstrated understanding of the programs' shared goal of diversifying the professoriate in the United States and its significance. Both fellowships provide support during the junior and senior years.

If selected, 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.

The Programs

Fellows may expect:

- (1) faculty and peer mentoring in one-on-one and seminar settings;
- (2) generous research fellowships during the academic year to be used to pursue research during Winter and Spring breaks (MMUF); senior research fund (MMUF and MGSEF); and support for GRE preparation (both MMUF and MGSEF); and
- (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; and
- (4) generous stipend support for summer research activities with a generous travel allowance (note: **MMUF** supports independent research during two summers; **MGSEF** fellows pursue supported research at select Big Ten Academic Alliance institutions during the summer between junior and senior year).

Additional program benefits include:

MGSEF fellows receive reduced application fees for application to all Big Ten Alliance graduate programs; fee waivers may also be available.

MMUF fellows receive fee waivers or reductions at many schools. Fellows who pursue doctoral study in Mellon- approved disciplines are eligible for repayment of up to \$10,000 in undergraduate loans; 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. Fellows also gain access to other funding and mentoring opportunities later in their graduate and professional career, such as the Social Science Research Council's Pre-doctoral Fellowships and Dissertation Fellowships.

Both MMUF and MGSEF fellows are also eligible to apply for the Institute for the Recruitment of Teachers (<https://www.andover.edu/about/outreach/irt>), a program, supported by the Mellon Foundation, that offers **robust** support for students applying to graduate programs (masters and PhD) in the Humanities and Social Sciences (including education) and fee waivers at a wide array of top graduate programs.

The Application Process at Carleton

During Winter Term, applicants to both programs (sophomores and juniors) will be selected for both the MMUF and MGSEF programs. The deadline will be announced in November 2019.

To apply, please prepare and provide the materials described below (a personal statement, a research statement, transcripts and letters of recommendation) appropriate to either MMUF or MGSEF admission. Applicants are encouraged to consult with Faculty Director Lori Pearson (lpearson) Director of Student Fellowships Marynel Ryan Van Zee (mryanvanzee), or Assistant Dean of Students Sindy Fleming (sfleming) on their plans and applications. **The required application materials are described below.**

Through the review of these application materials and an interview with faculty and staff, the Mellon Faculty Director and the Director of Student Fellowships select the fellows for each program. Some fields (see the comparison chart below) are ineligible for the MMUF program but are acceptable for the MGSEF program; this is one of the criteria we use to assign fellows to one program or the other.

All selected fellows are required to familiarize themselves with program benefits and requirements; complete additional paperwork as required; and register for the Mellon seminar for all subsequent terms following admission as long as they are on-campus. **Fellows should not accept offers of non-Mellon funding, including internship funding, without consulting with Lori Pearson to discuss program requirements and compatibility with other types of funding.**

Questions?

Please contact Program Coordinator, Professor Lori Pearson (lpearson), Director of Student Fellowships Marynel Ryan Van Zee (mryanvanzee), or Assistant Dean of Students Sindy Fleming (sfleming).

Required Application Materials: MMUF and MGSEF Programs

❖ Curriculum Vitae

- ☐ 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
- ☐ Honors and Extracurricular Activities at Carleton
- ☐ Activism/Community Involvement & Activities related to Teaching/Research
- ☐ Ethnicity, Citizenship (US citizenship, DACA or Green Card status is **required** for eligibility)

❖ Current Carleton Transcript, requested via the Hub for purpose 'other' and **sent to fellowships@carleton.edu**. The minimum GPA for MGSEF is 3.0. Although candidates with GPA between 3.0 and 3.3 will be considered for MMUF, preference is given to those with GPAs of 3.3 or higher.

❖ 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. A preliminary bibliography is encouraged but not required.

❖ 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 Mellon mission.

❖ 2 Faculty Recommendations (one of which should be from your proposed mentor and should address the feasibility of your project.) **Please note: Recommendations should be submitted via email to the Office of Student Fellowships via fellowships@carleton.edu. The recommendation letters should comment on the student's scholarly achievement and potential, the feasibility of the proposed project, and other personal or intellectual qualities that would make the student a strong candidate.**

❖ Personal Interview (approx. 20 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 programs' mission and their connection to it;
- ☐ 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.

Materials other than the transcript and letters of recommendation are submitted using the application at <https://apps.carleton.edu/fellowships/national/mellon/application/>. **If you find that any portion of your application may be late, PLEASE contact Lori Pearson directly before the deadline. No late materials can be accepted without prior approval.**

MMUF and MGSEF in comparison: structure, resources, implications		
	MMUF	MGSEF
Fields	Anthropology & Archaeology, Art History, Area Studies (e.g. Latin American Studies, Asian Studies, American Studies, etc.), Cinema and Media Studies (theoretical focus), Classics, Cultural Studies, Geography and Population Studies, English, Ethnic Studies, Ethnomusicology, Foreign Languages and Literatures, History, Linguistics, Musicology, Performance Studies (theoretical focus), Philosophy & Political Theory, Religion, Sociology, Theater (theoretical focus), Women & Gender Studies; other interdisciplinary areas of study may be eligible if they have one or more approved fields at their core.	Anthropology & Archaeology, Area Studies (e.g. Latin American Studies, Asian Studies, American Studies, etc.), Art History, Classics, Cinema and Media Studies, Economics , Educational Studies , English, Ethnic Studies, Ethnomusicology, Foreign Languages and Literatures, History, Linguistics, Performance studies, Philosophy, Political science , Psychology , Religion, Sociology; Interdisciplinary areas of study may be eligible if they have one or more approved fields at their core.
Citizenship Status	US Citizen, Permanent Resident, DACA	US Citizen, Permanent Resident, DACA
Eligibility	Sophomores & Juniors	Sophomores
On-Campus Mentoring	Yes	Yes
Graduate School Preparation	Yes	Yes
On-Campus Seminar	Yes	Yes
Community of Mellon Scholars	Yes	Yes
Summer Research Fellowship (funded)	Yes (2 summers possible)	Summer Research Opportunity at Big Ten Alliance university in field of choice in the summer between junior and senior year
Academic Term Fellowship	Yes (2 years possible: 3600 to support term-time and break research)	No
Support for Academic Opportunities (Conferences, etc.)	Yes	Yes
Loan Repayment	Yes (up to 10,000 if Fellow pursues and completes PhD or terminal degree)	No