



Mellon Mays Undergraduate Fellowship Program

Background: The Mellon Mays Undergraduate Fellowship (MMUF) is designed to increase the number of underrepresented minorities in the faculty ranks of institutions of higher learning. There are MMUF programs at 81 colleges and universities around the country as well as international programs (in South Africa). Faculty/student mentoring relationships form the core of the MMUF program. Faculty mentors help to orient undergraduates towards the pursuit of a Ph.D. and a faculty career through two years of a close research relationship.

MMUF Areas: The MMUF program has identified the following fields of study most under-represented by minorities in the academy. These fields are:

Mellon Designated Fields of Study

Anthropology and Archaeology

History

Area/Cultural/Ethnic/Gender Studies

Interdisciplinary Studies

Art History

Linguistics

Classics

Musicology and Ethnomusicology

English

Performance Studies (theoretical focus)

Film, Cinema and Media Studies (theoretical focus)

Philosophy and Political Theory

Foreign Languages and Literatures

Religion and Theology

Geography and Population Studies

Sociology

Interdisciplinary Studies: Interdisciplinary areas of study may be eligible if they have one or more Mellon fields at their core.

Theater (non-performance focus)

The Smith Program:

Faculty/student pairs are formed at the beginning of the fellowship and those relationships are maintained over the two years of the program. The Smith program puts heavy emphasis on this relationship and uses its resources to ensure that students can have the experiences deemed necessary by their faculty mentor for graduate school preparation. Students guided by their mentors pursue a research topic during the academic year and the summer. The academic year and summer research is supported by a stipend. The research experience helps to prepare students for the rigors of graduate work. Moreover, the close relationship with the mentor helps to lend insight into the life of a college professor.

- Fellows receive stipends during the academic year so that they may have more time to focus on their academic work and research. **Fellows are NOT eligible for work study jobs during the academic year.** Summer stipends are also awarded to conduct research and to travel.
- Fellows must attend regular meetings and workshops throughout the year.
- Fellows are eligible for up to \$10,000 for the repayment of undergraduate loans, provided they pursue a PhD in a Mellon-designated field. All loan repayment procedures are administered through the student's undergraduate institution.

Eligibility: The MMUF is open to sophomores. The MMUF has established the following selection criteria:

- 1) Academic promise
- 2) Interest in pursuing an academic career in Mellon-designated fields of study.
- 3) Potential for serving as a mentor and teacher for a wide variety of students.
- 4) Race and ethnicity (in relation to underrepresentation in designated fields of study).
- 5) Demonstrated commitment to increasing opportunities for underrepresented minorities, breaking down stereotypes, increasing cross-racial and ethnic understanding, and enabling others to better understand persons of different races and ethnicities.
- 6) Commitment to participating fully and enthusiastically in all aspects of the MMUF program, including attendance at conferences and meetings.
- 7) Status as US Citizen or permanent resident.

Application and Selection Process:

Complete an application. A completed application consists of an application form, two essays, a Faculty Consultation form, an official transcript, and one or two faculty recommendations. The letter(s) of recommendation should be from faculty members with whom you have taken a class and must be sent directly to the MMUF Program Coordinator at dramdath@smith.edu. Applications are due **Thursday, March 6, 2020**.

All applications are reviewed by the MMUF Advisory Board. The board will select 6-8 applicants for interviews. These finalists will meet with the selection committee for a 30 minute interview. The Advisory Board will then offer fellowships to five individuals. Selected fellows will meet with the Program Coordinator and are invited to attend the senior presentation dinner in late April.

Related Link: <http://www.mmuf.org/>