The Andrew W. Mellon Fellowships in Humanistic Studies

The Andrew W. Mellon Fellowships in Humanistic Studies are designed to help exceptionally promising students prepare for careers of teaching and scholarship in humanistic disciplines. The Mellon Fellowship is a competitive award for first-year doctoral students. Fellows may take their awards to any accredited graduate program in the United States or Canada. The Fellowship covers graduate tuition and required fees for the first year of graduate study and includes a stipend of $17,500. There have been more than 1,800 Fellows since the competition began in 1982. Mellon Fellows now holding the Ph.D. are teachers and scholars at some of the nation’s top colleges and universities.

Eligibility:

Students should be applying now for graduate school admission, in accordance with normal procedures, for a program leading to the Ph.D. degree. Members of under-represented groups are particularly encouraged to apply. Holders of Master’s degrees are not eligible, except when the program was terminal (no Ph.D. offered) or when the M.A. is in a substantially different field than the intended Ph.D. studies.

U.S. citizens or permanent residents applying in the following disciplines are eligible:

- American studies
- art history
- classics
- comparative literature
- critical theory
- cultural studies
- anthropology
- English literature
- English/creative writing
- ethnic studies
- ethnomusicology
- film theory
- foreign language
- literature
- history
- history and philosophy of mathematics
- history and philosophy of science
- humanities
- interdisciplinary studies of an eligible field
- music history and theory
- philosophy
- political history/philosophy/theory
- religion/religious studies
- rhetoric
- women’s studies

Award:

The Fellowship is for one year only and cannot be deferred. Mellon Fellows are expected to carry a full course load during the nine-month academic year of the Fellowship. Fellows may not accept supplementary awards or employment, including teaching assistantships.

Criteria:

A high grade point average and high scores on the Graduate Record Examination (GRE) are important but not the only measures of excellence. Selection committees will want to see evidence of outstanding future promise as well as any academic honors or awards students have earned. Students will be required to submit both a 1,000-word statement explaining their interest in their chosen field, and a 5-7 page sample of their academic writing.

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