AN INTRODUCTION TO FELLOWSHIPS

JUNIOR & SENIOR OPPORTUNITIES

Brian Davidson, Assistant Director for Fellowships
What does my office do?

My Role:

- Connect Students to Fellowship Opportunities
- Advise on Fellowship “Fit”
- Review Fellowship Application Materials/Provide Feedback
- Organize Workshops for Fellowship Information
- Hold Professional Development Workshops – Fellowship/Proposal Writing
- Advise on Letters of Recommendations
- Administer Fellowships
What do fellowships fund?

- Language Learning
- Academic Experiences (non-degree based)
- Undergraduate Scholarships
- Independent Projects
- Research
- Graduate Study/Degrees
- Professional Development/Experiential
- Teaching English
When are fellowship deadlines?

~September through March
(large clusters in September and Jan/Feb)
How do I find fellowship opportunities?

- Visit CMC’s fellowship website  
  http://www.cmc.edu/fellowships/ (*will be revised and revamped October/November)

- Make an appointment with me

- Ask professors in your field

- Visit your field’s professional organization website

- Scour the internet
How do I select opportunities?

- Are you eligible?
- Is this opportunity really something that you want to do?
- Read the criteria
  - How do your achievements, experience, GPA, personal goals fulfill the criteria?
- Read the mission/goals/intent of the fellowship
  - How do your experiences, achievements and goals relate to the foundation’s/fellowship’s mission?
  - This can be quite nuanced and subtle and is something I consult with applicants commonly
How do I select opportunities?

- Selecting opportunities is primarily about “fit”
  - Fellowships come in many flavors. While some may require a stellar GPA, not all do.

- Foundations want to fulfill their missions/directives through their awards

- Don’t put a square peg in a round hole
  - Opportunities that seek the experience, candidate profile, and goals that you have are much more likely to be viewed as good fit for the award
How do I select opportunities?

- **Fit, Fit, Fit**
  Foundations will use their criteria to assess and evaluate candidates; that is why it is important to realistically and critically think about your fit with a fellowship’s criteria and mission.

- **No such thing as perfect fit**
  HOWEVER, rarely do candidates fulfill every single criteria foundations list. As a whole, you should meet a majority but not entirety of the fellowship criteria.
How do I prepare to apply?

- **Longer term:**
  - Develop leadership experience
  - Volunteer
  - Expand your skills
  - Do well academically
  - Do interesting things
  - Develop and maintain strong relationships with faculty members, supervisors, mentors
How do I prepare to apply?

- **Shorter Term**
  - Look for opportunities now
  - Expect to take 4-6 weeks (or longer depending on the opportunity) to prepare
  - Expect to write several drafts
  - Contact the Registrar’s Office at least a couple of weeks before transcripts are due
  - Contact letter of recommendation writers at least three weeks in advance, preferably more
  - Make an appointment with me to discuss opportunities, fit, feedback, and letter writer selection
How do I prepare a competitive application?

- My experience and profile fit the most of the criteria and mission of the fellowship
- I have left myself several weeks to write drafts
- I have attended relevant info sessions and workshops
- I am actually writing and receiving feedback on drafts
- The content of my materials clearly and engagingly demonstrates my interest and fit
- I have given my letter writers enough time to write strong letters (around a month’s notice or longer)
Fellowships of Particular Interest

Fall Fellowships “season”
Fulbright

- Academic/cultural exchange
- ~1 year of study/research OR English teaching in a foreign country
- Some special programs available (Binational Business, NatGeo)
- U.S. citizens only
- Open to graduating seniors AND alumni
- Deadline: mid-September
“British” fellowships

- Rhodes (Oxford), Marshall (UK), Gates-Cambridge, Mitchell (Ireland), Churchill
- 11.1 GPA minimum, 11.5+ preferred
- Funds degree study at various institutions
- Looking for exceptional leaders, public servants, scholars
- Some Rhodes and Gates open to non-U.S. citizens
- Open to seniors AND (recent) alumni
- Deadline: August/September
Schwarzman Scholars

- New opportunity: fully funded one-year master’s degree at Schwarzman College, Tsinghua University, Beijing
- Focus on public policy, economics & business, or international studies
- No citizenship requirement
- GPA advised to be over 11.0
- Open to seniors AND alumni
- Deadline: October 1
Luce Fellowship

- Professional development fellowship in Asia
- Meant for people WITHOUT extensive experience in Asia/Asian affairs
- Professional field is open
- Appropriate for well-focused graduating seniors and early/mid-career alumni
- U.S. citizenship
- Deadline: Late September/early October
Fellowships of Particular Interest

Graduate School
Truman Scholarship

- Up to $30,000 for a public-service-related graduate degree
- Requires an extensive demonstration of commitment to public/governmental service
- Requires a commitment to work for 3 or more years in public service after grad school
- Initially funded by the US government
- U.S. citizens
- Open to JUNIORS ONLY
- Specifics and deadlines will be announced soon by the Government department
Foreign Service

- Pickering, Rangel, Payne/USAID
- Funding for international affairs-related graduate degrees, meant for future foreign service officers
- Service commitments
- U.S. citizens
- Open to (juniors), seniors, and alumni
- Deadlines: ~January
Funds graduate school in the arts, humanities, and social sciences

Financial aid required

Available for master’s and PhD programs, but the ideal candidate tends to be ready to do serious doctoral-level research

U.S. citizens

Open to JUNIORS ONLY

Deadline: February
James Madison

- Funds master’s degrees in history, political science, and related fields
- Applicants must be committed to becoming a secondary school teacher in American history, government, or social studies
- Deadline: March
- Open to seniors and recent alumni
Soros Fellowship for New Americans

- Funding for 2 years of graduate study in any field
- Must be a “New American” = could be a naturalized U.S. citizen, green card holder, child of immigrants
- Open to seniors and alumni
- Deadline: November
Fellowships of Particular Interest

Other Academic
Critical Language Scholarship (CLS)

- 7-10 weeks of intensive language study abroad
- Funded by Department of State for national security purposes
- This year’s languages: Arabic, Bangla, Chinese, Hindi, Indonesian, Japanese, Korean, Persian, Punjabi, Russian, SWAHILI, Turkish, Urdu
- U.S. citizens only
- Open to sophomores, juniors, seniors
- Deadline: mid-November
For Sophomores and Juniors:
- Goldwater (STEM) – due January
- Udall (environmental studies) – due March

For Sophomores, Juniors, Seniors, and Alumni
- Humanity in Action (international human rights) – due January
Fellowships of Particular Interest

Work/Experiential
Work/Experiential

- **For Freshmen - Seniors:**
  - Davis Projects for Peace – due January

- **For Seniors ONLY:**
  - Napier Initiative – due November

- **For Seniors and Alumni:**
  - Carnegie (IR/National Security) – due November
  - Scoville (IR/Peace) – due January
  - Coro (Public affairs, urban issues) – due January
  - California Capital Fellows (state government) – due February
  - Princeton in {Latin America | Asia | Africa} – due November
Resources

- Website
- Center for Writing and Public Discourse
- Faculty Advisors
- Info Sessions
- Workshops
- Me – BDavidson@cmc.edu