

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
- 1 1.1 GPA minimum, 1 1.5+ 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

Beinecke

- 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

Field-specific

- 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