

Benefits /

Mellon Mays Fellows receive mentorship, financial support, and guidance on how to prepare for graduate work.

Program benefits include:

- ⇒ One-on-one mentorship from a faculty member
- ⇒ Pursuit of an independent research project
- ⇒ Close relationships with a cohort of like-minded scholars
- ⇒ \$3,600 academic year stipends for research
- ⇒ \$3,900 summer research funds
- ⇒ Funds to cover research-related travel and research expenses, including MMUF regional conferences
- ⇒ Eligibility for up to \$10,000 in undergraduate loan repayment if fellows pursue Ph.D.s in select fields
- ⇒ Personal interaction with professors, visiting lectures & scholars
- ⇒ Workshops on writing, presentation, and professional communication skills
- ⇒ Assistance with GRE and graduate school preparation

How /

The online application opens in the fall and is due in January. Plan ahead by getting to know professors and faculty who can write letters of recommendation.

Visit our website for more information or email one of the program coordinators to schedule a one-on-one meeting.

About /

Established by the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation in 1988, the program funds MMUF programs at a growing number of institutions and consortiums. Its name honors Dr. Benjamin Mays who was dean of the Howard University School of Religion, president of Morehouse College, as well as president of the Atlanta Public Schools Board of Education.

The Mellon Mays Undergraduate Fellowship program reflects Dr. Mays' values in its commitment to fostering the academic aspirations of members of traditionally underrepresented groups and/or those with interests in studies aimed at eliminating racial and ethnic inequalities.

Contact /

Program Director

Georgia Warnke
georgia.warnke@ucr.edu

Administrative Coordinator

Katharine Henshaw
katharine.henshaw@ucr.edu
951.827.1555

Program Assistant

Evan Prellberg
mmuf@ucr.edu

mellonmays.ucr.edu

Mellon Mays

Undergraduate Fellowship Program

research / mentorship / cohort

What /

Q: What is the Mellon Mays Undergraduate Fellowship Program?

A: The Mellon Mays Undergraduate Fellowship (MMUF) is the centerpiece of The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation's initiatives to increase diversity in the faculty ranks of institutions of higher learning. The two-year program provides financial support, research mentorship, and assistance with graduate school applications.

Q: What is a fellowship?

A: A fellowship is not employment, but it is also not free money (like a scholarship). You can think of a fellowship as an agreement to conduct research and participate in a program. In exchange, fellows receive financial support, mentorship, and other benefits.

Q: What do you mean by 'conduct research'?

A: Have you ever been so curious about a topic or fascinated by a problem that you thought about it constantly, read books or articles, looked up resources, and/or wondered why no one had solved the issue before? That is what research faculty do: They pursue questions that intrigue them by reading, talking to experts, surveying people or by using other academic methods that help uncover new information or insights into an important topic. If this sounds interesting to you, then our program may be right for you.

Q: If I were selected, what would I have to do for the fellowship?

A: Fellows agree to develop a research project with their mentor and to write a paper or produce a creative project by the end of two years in the program. Additionally, fellows agree to prepare graduate school applications. During the program, fellows participate in weekly meetings, meet twice a month with their faculty mentor, and attend an annual conference. In between school years, fellows attend a summer research program and develop their projects.

Q: What do you mean by 'graduate study'?

A: Students in a graduate program take classes and work with a faculty mentor to develop an in-depth research project that contributes new knowledge to a field of study. In a master's program, students write a thesis. In a Ph.D. program, students complete a book-length project called a dissertation. Many students obtain a master's degree at the same time they are studying for a Ph.D. and often go on to become professors or researchers at universities and colleges.

Q: What if I am not sure about going to graduate school?

A: We understand that graduate school can seem intimidating or too far in the future to consider. Through workshops and mentorship, the Mellon Mays program helps fellows think through their options and explore the ways graduate study contributes to their goals. Fellows take the GRE and prepare a writing sample, personal statement, and other documents needed to apply to a graduate program. Fellows also hear from faculty and current graduate students about the Ph.D. experience.

Q: What if I am thinking about law school, medical school, MBA programs or other professional training?

A: Though professional training and certification are important, the Mellon Mays program does not provide support for students intending to pursue law, medicine, or other professional degrees.

Who /

Q: Who is eligible to apply?

A: Students in their second year, or who will be enrolled at UC Riverside for at least two more full years, are eligible to apply. Transfer students are also encouraged to apply. Eligible students will meet the following minimum requirements: 90 units of instruction, 3.3 GPA, and an interest in research and graduate school in the disciplines listed below, and a commitment to the goals of the MMUF program. Students from groups traditionally underrepresented in academia are particularly encouraged to apply. International students are not eligible for the program.

Q: Is the program open to undergraduates in any major?

A: Students must be enrolled in and intend to pursue graduate studies in the following disciplines. Students with double majors and minors are eligible to apply but must have one major from the list below:

- Anthropology & Archaeology
- Area/Cultural/Ethnic/Gender Studies
- Art History
- Classics
- Geography & Population Studies
- English
- Film, Cinema & Media Studies (theoretical focus)
- Musicology, Ethnomusicology & Music Theory
- Foreign Languages & Literatures
- History
- Linguistics
- Literature
- Performance Studies (theoretical focus)
- Philosophy & Political Theory
- Religion & Theology
- Sociology
- Theater (theoretical focus)