

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
- ⇒ Completion of an independent research project
- ⇒ Close relationships with a cohort of like-minded scholars
- ⇒ \$4,000 in academic year stipends for research
- ⇒ \$4,500 in 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 when 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

Contact /

Want to know more?

Program coordinators are available to answer questions about eligibility, applications or program requirements.

mmuf@ucr.edu

Timeline /

Fall/Winter of student's 2nd year: *

Apply to program

- * **Stage 1:** Submit online application to share basic information to confirm eligibility
- * **Stage 2:** Complete the application (including recommendation letters)
- * **Stage 3:** After the application closes, up to 10 applicants are invited to interview with the program committee

Spring of student's 2nd year:

New fellows attend a Welcome Dinner and meet their mentors

First Summer in the program:

Attend the UCR MMUF Summer Research Program

Year 1/ Qtr 1: Begin research project and complete literature review

Qtr 2 & 3: Continue research project

Second Summer in the program:

Complete research project;
Study for and take GRE

Year 2/ Qtr 4: Prepare and submit graduate school applications

Qtr 5: Complete written paper on research project

Qtr 6: Publish in undergraduate journals and give a presentation of your work

Graduate!

*see Eligibility section

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mellonmays.ucr.edu

Mellon Mays
Undergraduate Fellowship Program
research / mentorship / cohort

Q: What is the Mellon Mays Undergraduate Fellowship Program?

A: The Mellon Mays Undergraduate Fellowship (MMUF) is a two-year cohort program that 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 scholars 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, then our program may be right for you.

Q: If I were selected, what would I do as a Fellow?

A: Fellows conduct a research project under the guidance of their mentor and produce the final product in their last year of the program. They also prepare graduate school applications, 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 and produce an in-depth research project that contributes 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.

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.

Q: Who is eligible to apply?

- * UCR and transfer students in their second year, or who will be enrolled at UCR for at least two more full years
- * 90 units/credits completed
- * Minimum 3.3 GPA
- * Students with an interest in research and graduate school in the disciplines listed below.
- * Students with a demonstrated commitment to addressing social inequality and furthering the goal of a more diverse academy
(International students are not eligible.)

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

A: Applicants must be majoring in one of 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
 English
 Film, Cinema & Media Studies (theoretical focus)
 Foreign Languages & Literatures
 Geography & Population Studies
 History
 Linguistics
 Literature
 Musicology, Ethnomusicology & Music Theory
 Performance Studies (theoretical focus)
 Philosophy & Political Theory
 Religion & Theology
 Sociology
 Theater (theoretical focus)