

# **MELLON MAYS UNDERGRADUATE FELLOWSHIPS**

## **Application Information and Instructions**

### **WHAT THEY ARE**

To address the shortage of minority scholars on college and university campuses, the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation established the Mellon Mays Undergraduate Fellowship Program. The program is designed to encourage the most talented undergraduate students from groups traditionally underrepresented in graduate education, as well as others with a demonstrated commitment to eradicating racial disparities, to enter Ph.D. programs and pursue careers in research and college teaching. City College is one of over thirty participating colleges and universities nationwide.

The heart of the program is an undergraduate experience with special opportunities for academic and personal enrichment. Fellows become actively involved members of a close-knit community of aspiring scholars from numerous disciplines. They participate in ventures that draw them together as a group, teaching and learning from one another, as well as from the faculty.

Upon admission to the program, each Fellow chooses a faculty mentor—a professor engaged in teaching, research, and other professional pursuits. Fellows will work with their mentors on guided research projects and, with the help of the mentors, experience the culture and activities of academic life. During the summers following both sophomore and junior year, Fellows will receive a \$3,900 stipend to engage in an independent research project under the direction of a faculty mentor.

Each semester, Fellows gather to participate in a forum that highlights aspects of research and academic life as well as in workshops that help them prepare successful applications to graduate school. At the annual spring semester research conference, Fellows are encouraged to present their research.

### **BENEFITS**

Mellon Mays Undergraduate Fellowships provide the following benefits:

- A stipend of \$1,800 per semester and a stipend of \$3,900 for summer research following both sophomore and junior year.
- Additional funds for academic support (to the extent the budget allows), including: research expenses; travel to conferences, research libraries, archives, and graduate schools of interest; tuition to study-abroad programs, language-training courses, or other appropriate programs.
- Repayment of up to \$10,000 in undergraduate or graduate student loans for Fellows who enter eligible Ph.D. programs.
- Mentoring from a faculty member.
- Pre-graduate school advising, including workshops on applying to graduate school, financial aid, writing the personal statement, and preparing to take the GRE.
- Participation in the Fellowship Program's annual spring research conference and in regional MMUF conferences for undergraduate and doctoral students.

## HOW TO APPLY

### Eligibility

- A minimum of 3.0 GPA and exceptional scholarly promise.
- Major in: a discipline in the humanities (Area Studies, Art History, English, Foreign Languages and Literatures, History, Musicology, Philosophy, Religion); selected physical sciences (Computer Science, Earth and Atmospheric Sciences, Math, Physics); or selected social sciences (Anthropology, Political Philosophy, Sociology).
- Desire to matriculate in a Ph.D. program and to pursue a career in research and teaching at the college or university level.
- Race and ethnicity (African-American, Latino, Native American) or demonstrated commitment to increasing opportunities for underrepresented minorities.
- Current sophomores or students with three to four more semesters before graduation.
- Status as US citizen or permanent resident (green card holder).

### Application

- The attached application form.
- Two or more letters of recommendation from faculty members or others familiar with the applicant's academic performance and potential.
- For those who have attended a college other than City College, a college transcript.

Letters of recommendation should be sent directly to the Steering Committee. All documents should be mailed to:

City College Fellowships Office, (NAC 6/316)  
The City College of New York  
New York, NY 10031.

### Application Deadline

Applications are due **March 10**.

### Selection Criteria

The most promising applicants will be interviewed by the Director along with members of the Steering Committee and faculty mentors. Selection will be based on the strength of the student's academic record, academic focus and goals, faculty recommendations, and capacity to diversify the academy and/or demonstrated commitment to eradicating racial disparities in higher education.



## RECOMMENDATIONS

List the two or more sponsors who are writing your recommendations.

**Note:** Only two recommendations are required. Since this is an academic fellowship, at least two letters should be from faculty members. Letters from academic advisors tend to be far less useful.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Department

\_\_\_\_\_  
School

\_\_\_\_\_  
Street Address

\_\_\_\_\_  
City                      State      Zip

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Department

\_\_\_\_\_  
School

\_\_\_\_\_  
Street Address

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City                      State      Zip

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Department

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School

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Street Address

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City                      State      Zip

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Department

\_\_\_\_\_  
School

\_\_\_\_\_  
Street Address

\_\_\_\_\_  
City                      State      Zip

## **PERSONAL PROFILE**

**Instructions: In 250 to 500 words (typed), please give a profile of yourself, describing your interests and aspirations.**

## SUMMER RESEARCH

**Instructions: In 250 to 500 words (typed), answer the following question: If awarded a Mellon Mays Undergraduate Fellowship, which includes \$3,900 for summer research, what summer project(s) would you like to pursue? What would be the significance of the project(s) for your academic progress and intellectual growth? (Have you already secured funding for this project?)**

## Mellon Mays Undergraduate Fellowship Letter of Reference

**TO THE APPLICANT:** Please complete all entries above the boxed text, including the choice given in the paragraph above your signature.

Print Full Name \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Sponsor \_\_\_\_\_

I am aware of the rights afforded to me by the Federal Education Rights and Privacy Act of 1974, as amended. I hereby \_\_\_do\_\_\_do not waive my right to examine the contents of this reference. I understand that by waiving my right I do so under the condition that the reference is used solely for the purpose for which it is requested.

Date \_\_\_\_\_ Applicant's Signature \_\_\_\_\_

**TO THE SPONSOR:** The student whose name appears above is an applicant for a Mellon Mays Undergraduate Fellowship. These fellowships are awarded to talented students who aspire to enter Ph.D. programs in preparation for careers in research and college teaching. Applicants should be from groups traditionally underrepresented in graduate education or others with a demonstrated commitment to eradicating racial disparities. We would appreciate your comments on the applicant's overall qualifications for such an award, including:

- (1) her or his intelligence;
- (2) ability to communicate clearly and effectively; and
- (3) potential for academic success, including potential for completing preparation for a PhD program.

**Please write your statement on the other side of this page or attach your letter to this form. The College is most grateful for your assistance.**

**How would you compare this student with his or her peers?**

\_\_\_Top 3% \_\_\_Next 10% \_\_\_Next 20% \_\_\_Middle Third \_\_\_Lower Third

Date \_\_\_\_\_ Sponsor's Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Sponsor's Name (print or type) \_\_\_\_\_

Title \_\_\_\_\_ Dept. & School \_\_\_\_\_

Please return this form to: City College Fellowships Office, NAC 6/316, City College of New York, Convent Ave. at 138<sup>th</sup> St., New York, NY, 10031, by **March 10<sup>th</sup>**.

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