

MOUNT HOLYOKE
CAREER DEVELOPMENT CENTER
Phone 413-538-2080 / Fax 413-538-2081

AMERICAN GRADUATE FELLOWSHIPS

For doctoral study in the fields of History, Philosophy, Literature and Languages, and Fine Arts

(The Council of Independent Colleges (CIC) American Graduate Fellowships web site:

http://www.cic.edu/projects_services/grants/americangrad.asp)

We encourage all applicants to visit this website for more detailed information about the program

Applications for the American Graduate Fellowships are available at the above website beginning April 15th. If you wish to apply, please contact Kimberly Parent, Interim Coordinator & Advisor for Scholarships, Fellowships, Pre-Law, and Graduate School, in the Career Development Center to discuss your plans.

TYPE: Nomination by Mount Holyoke College required for current graduating seniors or recent graduates (must have received bachelor's degree no earlier than 12/01/2006). Mount Holyoke may nominate an unlimited number of candidates for this award.

PURPOSE: The American Graduate Fellowships are intended to: directly support the advanced education of a few stellar graduates of small colleges; encourage the best students at small colleges to apply for graduate work in the humanities at top-tier private research institutions; and signal to the leading graduate programs that small colleges remain a rich source of talented doctoral students. The fellowships will be available to students from eligible institutions that enroll in doctoral programs at any of the 23 leading independent research universities in the U.S., Great Britain, and Ireland (see website for list of institutions).

ELIGIBILITY: Basic eligibility requirements are:

- U.S. citizenship
- Must have academic standing sufficient to assure completion of a Bachelor's degree
- Must intend to enter a doctoral program in the fields of history, philosophy, literature and languages (including classics but excluding linguistics), and fine arts (excluding archaeology and the performing or studio arts).
- CIC does not discriminate on the basis of sex, age, race, color, ethnicity, creed, physical disability, sexual orientation, or national origin in the selection of American Graduate Fellows

SELECTION CRITERIA: Applications are reviewed by an expert panel of distinguished humanities scholars from the eligible fields of study. This panel will recommend the top candidates and finalists will be selected by mid-January 2009. Graduate programs with pending applications from these students will be notified immediately. CIC will also notify the graduate deans at the eligible institutions and their counterparts at other leading research universities, commending the finalists and explaining the high degree of selectivity for the American Graduate Fellowships. Fellowship winners and other finalists will be publicly recognized in the spring of 2009.

AWARDS: Up to \$50,000 for each Fellow shall be awarded during the initial year of graduate study, including tuition, fees, and a stipend for living expenses and research costs. Fellows attending universities in Great Britain or Ireland may also apply a portion of their awards to international travel. All awards will be paid directly to the graduate institutions, with the exception of travel support for students attending foreign universities. Fellowship will normally be renewable for a second academic year (in the same field of study at the same institution), on the condition of satisfactory performance during the first year. CIC will make two awards each year in February 2009 for graduate enrollments in the fall of 2009.

APPLICATION PROCESS: Applications are available online beginning April 15th. The American Graduate Fellowships program is very competitive and your academic adviser and other faculty who know you and your work well can help you determine whether you would be a strong candidate for this award.

PLEASE DO NOT STAPLE, LAMINATE OR BIND ANY PART OF THE APPLICATION FORM OR SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS, AS THEY WILL BE COPIED FOR REVIEW BY THE COMMITTEE ON FELLOWSHIPS!

NOMINATION PROCESS & DEADLINES:

Friday, September 19, 2008

Submit the following documents to the Director for Graduate and Professional School Advising in the Career Development Center.

- A completed and signed copy of the **application form** with biographical and contact information
- **Brief statement (500-1,000 words) about your plans** for graduate study, including the proposed program(s) and institution(s) at which the fellowship would be used
- Draft of an **essay not more than 1,250 words** on a set topic designed to demonstrate your aptitude for scholarly work at the graduate level
- **List of graduate programs** to which you have applied (or intend to apply)
- **GRE Scores**
- **Official transcripts from each institution attended, including study abroad** (note: MHC unofficial transcripts may be submitted to the Committee on Fellowships for the interview, however if nominated, official transcripts will be required for final application submission). Transcripts are to be sent directly to the CDC.
- **Two letters of recommendation** from faculty members in the proposed field of graduate study
- A **recommendation from the chief academic dean of MHC**, addressing your intellectual growth and achievements will be written on your behalf. Applications without this endorsement will not be considered by the Foundation.

Wednesday, September 24 - Friday, September 26, 2008

The Committee on Fellowships interviews candidates. Students will be notified shortly after the interview whether the Committee has decided to support their candidacy.

Friday, October 3, 2008

Final applications of nominees are due in the Career Development Center for final review by the Director for Graduate and Professional School Advising.

Wednesday, October 15, 2008

Applications must be received by the CIC office in Washington DC no later than this date. Completed applications include the application form, personal statement, descriptive book review, official college transcript(s), and institutional recommendation. Submit these materials as a package, secured with a paper clip or other fastener. DO NOT enclose them in a binder; bound applications will not be accepted. Supporting materials include 2 letters of recommendation from faculty to be sent directly to CIC and received by 10/15/08, a confidential letter of recommendation from a senior administrator (optional), sent directly to CIC and received by 10/15/08, and GRE scores (if you have not taken the exam yet, make sure to send your scores to IC no later than December 1, 2008).

Please note that it is your responsibility to ensure that each portion of the application, including letters of recommendation, is received by the appropriate deadline. If you will be requesting transcripts from other institutions or letters of recommendation from outside the College (particularly outside the U.S.), please do so immediately, as these materials can take several weeks to reach us. If you anticipate a problem meeting a particular deadline or have any questions concerning your application, please contact Kimberly Parent, Interim Coordinator & Advisor for Scholarships, Fellowships, Pre-Law, and Graduate School at (413) 538-2080.