

DEADLINE: FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 18, 2022 BY 11:59 pm

MISSION

The fundamental objective of the Mellon Mays Undergraduate Fellowship (MMUF) is to address, over time, the problem of underrepresentation in the academy at the level of college and university faculties. This goal can be achieved both by increasing the number of students from underrepresented minority groups (URM) who pursue PhDs and by supporting the pursuit of PhDs by students who may not come from traditional minority groups but have otherwise demonstrated a commitment to the goals of MMUF. The MMUF program is designed to encourage fellows to enter PhD programs that prepare students for professorial careers; it is not intended to support students who intend to go on to medical school, law school or other professional schools (<https://www.mmuf.org/about>).

MMUF ELIGIBLE FIELDS OF STUDY

To be eligible for selection as an MMUF fellow, students must be majoring, or planning to major in one or more of the following fields:

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

* Includes Africana Studies; Comparative American Studies; East Asian Studies; Gender, Sexuality, and Feminist Studies; Hispanic Studies; Jewish Studies; Latin American Studies; Russian and East European Studies; and individual majors related to those fields

AWARD

Fellows in the 2022 cohort will undertake two academic years of mentored research work (10 hours per week in 2022-23 and 2023-24), eight weeks of full-time research in summer 2022 (**June 13th-August 5th, 2022**), and eight weeks of full-time research in summer 2023. The fellowship will provide a stipend of \$3,600 (\$1,800 per semester), before taxes, for research work during the 2022-23 and 2023-24 academic years; a per-term allowance for research-related supplies and travel; a student stipend of \$2,925 and on-campus housing for summer 2022 and summer 2023 for full-time research; paid travel annually to an MMUF regional conference; and a book/research award for the student's mentor.

Fellows are required to be in residence in Oberlin for eight weeks (June 13th-August 5th) in summer 2022 to participate in workshops and activities through the Office of Undergraduate Research (OUR). **In summer 2022 mentors are expected to be available on campus, on a weekly basis (with some flexibility, of course), to provide the student with regular in-person guidance and feedback.** While Fellows are not required to be on Oberlin campus for summer 2023, they are required to complete 40 hours of research a week for 8 weeks during summer 2023.

A Mellon Fellow who continues on to pursue a PhD in an MMUF-eligible field of study, within thirty-nine (39) months of graduation from college, is also eligible for additional research support during graduate school and up to \$10,000 of repayment of undergraduate loans upon completion of the graduate degree.

SELECTION CRITERIA

- Academic promise and intellectual curiosity;
- Sophomore status at Oberlin in the College of Arts and Sciences or Conservatory;
- Undergraduate major in an MMUF-eligible field of study;
- Interest in pursuing a PhD in an MMUF-eligible field of study
- Status as a U.S. citizen or permanent resident
- Potential for serving as a mentor and teacher for a wide variety of students
- Race and ethnicity (in relation to underrepresentation in designated fields of study)
- Commitment to the mission of MMUF and to the values espoused by Dr. Benjamin Mays: to reduce the serious underrepresentation on faculties of individuals from minority groups, as well as to address the consequences of these racial disparities for the educational system itself and for the larger society that it serves; and

- Availability for, and commitment to, full and enthusiastic participation in all aspects of the MMUF program, including attendance at workshops and programming throughout the summer, weekly meetings both academic years, and conferences.

APPLICATION MATERIALS

The components of your application together should demonstrate clearly your fit with the selection criteria above.

1. Application Form

Complete the attached form. You and your proposed faculty mentor must each type your own name in the relevant fields at the bottom of the form as an electronic signature, or, when you have finished filling in the other fields, select the “Developer” tab above, click the “Protect Form” button to turn off fields, and add an electronic signature.

2. Statement of Purpose

A **statement of purpose** (up to 500 words or 2 double-spaced pages) articulating your commitment to the aims of MMUF as indicated in the mission statement above. Your statement should be written as a cohesive narrative essay that addresses *all* of the following:

- how have your experiences in college been shaped by underrepresentation of certain groups in academia?
- what are your goals for the future?
- in what specific ways do you hope to change higher education by way of those goals?
- what is your understanding and interpretation of the life and legacy of Dr. Benjamin Mays, after whom the program is named?
- how is the work that you want to do, in your research and in your life, in conversation with the values he espoused?

3. Research Proposal and Detailed Work Plan

A **research proposal** (up to 500 words or 2 double-spaced pages, not including work plan) clearly addressing *all* of the following:

- the purpose of the project;
- why you are interested in this research;
- what academic fields or disciplines this project fits into and how it will contribute to those fields;
- why this research may have significance even for those outside of those fields;
- what research questions are underlying or animating your project;
- what methods you plan to use and why those methods are appropriate for your research questions;
- what preparation or skills you have that make you well suited for this research; and
- whom you have selected to be your faculty mentor, how their expertise aligns with your research, and how they will contribute to your development.

A **detailed work plan** (up to 500 words or 2 double-spaced pages) that provides:

- a schedule of how your research will be divided over two academic years and one summer; and
- indicates what you may need (supplies, books, travel, etc.) to complete that research successfully.

4. Writing Sample

A **sample of your strongest academic writing** (up to 1,500 words or 5 double-spaced pages). The writing may contain creative elements, as long as it also demonstrates analysis and argumentation with a thesis statement and supporting evidence. The writing sample need not be on the same topic as your proposed MMUF research, and there is no need to write anything new. Instead, you can use a clean copy (without instructor’s comments) of something you already submitted for a class.

5. Unofficial Transcript

Include your current unofficial **transcript** from Banner Self Service (accessible through OberView), saved as a PDF.

6. **Proposed Mentor Statement**

A **letter** from your proposed MMUF faculty mentor clearly addressing *all* of the following:

- the soundness of the proposed research project;
- the field(s) and/or discipline(s) in which the proposed research project is located;
- what contributions the applicant's research stands to make to the field(s) and/or discipline(s);
- why the proposed faculty mentor is interested in working with this student;
- the proposed faculty mentor's travel or leave plans for the entire period fall 2022-spring 2024; and
- the proposed faculty mentor's plans for ensuring that the student receives uninterrupted in-person mentorship, should the mentor be away from campus or on leave during any portion of that time.

The applicant should share this application packet with the proposed mentor so that person can be well-informed about the MMUF program structure and requirements when writing the Mentor Statement.

7. **Faculty/Staff Recommendations**

Two letters of recommendation. Recommenders should be members of the Oberlin College or Conservatory faculty or staff who know you and your academic work well enough to comment, in an informed way, on your potential for independent research, active participation in collaborative learning communities, and an academic career.

If the proposed faculty mentor of your research project fits that description, the mentor should be one of your recommenders. In this case, the proposed faculty mentor can **combine the mentor statement and letter of recommendation into a single document.**

8. **Peer Recommendation (Optional)**

One letter of recommendation from a peer, not necessarily at Oberlin, who can comment on your intellectual curiosity and how you work both alone and in groups.

9. **Personal Interview**

After receiving your completed application, we will contact you to schedule an **interview**.

DEADLINE AND SUBMISSION GUIDELINES

All application materials, including letters of recommendation, must be received **no later than 11:59 pm on Friday February 18, 2022**. Incomplete applications will not be considered.

Student applicants must submit the first five (5) items above, saved as PDF files, in a single email to the Office of Undergraduate Research (OUR) at our@oberlin.edu. Faculty, staff, and peer recommenders should email their letters in PDF format directly to OUR at that same address, with the name of the student applicant indicated clearly in the subject line of the email.

APPLICATION FORM 2022

PLEASE TYPE INFORMATION INTO THE FIELDS.

First/Preferred Name _____

Last Name _____

Gender _____

Email Address _____ OCMR # _____ Telephone Number () _____ - _____

Campus Address _____

T Number T _____

Birthdate _____

Are you a U.S. Citizen? YES NO

If you answered "NO," are you a legal permanent resident of the U.S.? YES NO

Permanent Mailing Address: Street _____

_____ City _____

State or Province _____ ZIP Code _____ - _____ Country _____ Home Phone () _____ - _____

Current or intended major(s) _____

Current or intended minor(s): _____

Research area(s) of interest _____

Name of faculty mentor for proposed research project _____ Phone () _____ - _____

Faculty mentor's department(s) or program(s) _____

Names of faculty or staff members who will submit letters of recommendation for your application

#1 _____

#2 _____

I hereby certify to the best of my knowledge that the information furnished on this application is true and complete without evasion or misrepresentation. I understand that if found to be otherwise, it is sufficient cause for rejection of my application.

Student applicant signature: _____ **Date** _____

Please type your full name above as an electronic signature, or add an electronic signature.

I have reviewed the application materials and agree to serve as a Mellon Mays Undergraduate Fellowship Mentor throughout the program should this applicant be selected.

Faculty mentor signature: _____ **Date** _____

Please type your full name above as an electronic signature, or add an electronic signature.

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Only complete applications will be considered.**