



MELLON MAYS UNDERGRADUATE FELLOWSHIP FACULTY MENTOR AGREEMENT

Thank you for serving as a Mellon Mays Undergraduate Fellows Program (MMUF) Faculty Mentor. The information below summarizes the program's aims and goals, as well as the expectations of MMUF Faculty Mentors. Senior Lecturers, tenure-track, and tenured faculty are eligible to serve as faculty mentors for fellowship projects. Faculty mentors for the Mellon Mays Undergraduate Research Fellowship must hold a doctoral degree or must share mentoring responsibilities with a Ph.D. faculty member.

The MMUF program is committed to *multivocality* -- amplifying perspectives and contributions that have been marginalized within the conventional scholarly record, and that promote the realization of a more socially just world. The program seeks to increase the number of students who will pursue a Ph.D. and enter the professoriate in core humanities and social science fields. These fields are:

- Anthropology and archaeology
 - Area/cultural/ethnic/gender studies
 - Art history
 - Classics
 - Geography and population studies
 - English
 - Film, cinema, and media studies (theoretical focus)
 - Musicology, ethnomusicology, and music theory
 - Foreign languages and literatures
 - History
 - Linguistics
 - Literature
 - Performance studies (theoretical focus)
 - Philosophy and Political Theory
 - Religion and theology
 - Sociology
 - Theater (theoretical focus)
- Interdisciplinary studies: Interdisciplinary areas of study may be eligible if they have one or more eligible fields at their core but must be approved by the MMUF staff at the Mellon Foundation on a case-by-case basis. Please note that interdisciplinary education graduate programs, even those that incorporate one or more eligible fields, are not eligible for MMUF graduate benefits.

Fellows must demonstrate the potential to bring historically marginalized or underrepresented perspectives to the academy, including by producing scholarly research that contributes to more complete and accurate narratives of the human experience and lays the foundation for more just and equitable futures.

Mentoring plays a vital role in academic development. Through their guidance and example, Faculty Mentors help direct students toward achieving academic success. The MMUF recognizes the importance of mentors and, therefore, it requires that Fellows work closely with Faculty Mentors throughout their two-year Fellowship. In fact, the key component of the MMUF is the faculty-mentored projects that involve Mellon Fellows in what can best be described as “graduate school and academic career training.”

Faculty Mentorship Overview:

As a Faculty Mentor, you have the knowledge and responsibility to demystify the formal and informal aspects of earning a doctorate. Mentors should present insight into the fulfillment and rewards of a career in scholarship and teaching. In the mentoring relationship, the sharing of personal experience and the transmission of knowledge intersect in a trusting learning environment that provides opportunities for you and your MMUF Fellow to stretch beyond your boundaries.

At the heart of the Mellon Mays Undergraduate Fellows Program is the **mentoring** relationship established between you and your Fellow. The goal of the directed research project is to introduce your Fellow to what it will be like to be a graduate student pursuing a Ph.D.

The Responsibilities of the Faculty Mentor:

The Faculty Mentor plays an essential role in the undergraduate component of the MMUF Program. As a Faculty Mentor you will have **five** primary responsibilities:

1. **Candidacy:** As the Faculty Mentor you will assist your MMUF candidate with their application and materials for submission to the selection committee. You should provide your “potential” Fellow with tips or practice opportunities for interviewing with the committee.
2. **Research Project:** As the Faculty Mentor you are responsible for overseeing your Fellow’s research project. The project should introduce them to the practices that scholars follow in a selected discipline. The project should not duplicate the work required in a course but may be the same as their senior “paper in the major.” In fact, we recommend that they use their MMUF project as part of their “paper in the major,” if possible. The Fellow’s research should not interfere with their academic progress but should complement and reinforce it. Your Fellow will be asked to develop a timeline for their research studies that ends in the completion of the project. You will need to sign off on this timeline for the Fellow to receive their stipend. The expectation is that the timeline will be developed in the first month of the fellowship during the MMUF Summer Program. As the timeline is a dynamic document, we anticipate that it will be revised as the project progresses. All revisions to the timeline **must** be made under your direction and submitted to the MMUF Coordinators.
3. **Graduate School:** As the Faculty Mentor you are expected to help your Fellow prepare for graduate school. This should involve assisting them with identifying graduate programs in their intended field, finding funding resources such as fellowships and/or grants, providing them with GRE test-taking advice, and helping with the overall graduate school application process.
4. **A Career in Academia:** As the Faculty Mentor you will provide both academic guidance and insight into life as an academic. You will provide opportunities for your Fellow to develop teaching skills through practice.
5. **The MMUF Program:** As the Faculty Mentor, you will serve as the link between Whittier College’s MMUF program and your Fellow.

I have read the MMUF Faculty Mentor Agreement and consent to serve as the MMUF Faculty Mentor for:

(Applicant Name)

Mentor Name: _____

Date: _____

Signature: _____