Bucknell Humanities Center
Mellon Humanities Academic Year Research
Fellowship for Faculty-Student Collaboration

PLEASE NOTE: The current parameters of the grant extension from Andrew W. Mellon Foundation allows for expenses incurred November 1, 2021 (or the application approval date) through June 30, 2022.

The following are the guidelines to submit an application for the Mellon Humanities Academic Year Research Fellowship.

All BHC grants must comply with the University's COVID-19 policies and procedures regarding travel and student employment.

♦ **APPLICATION DEADLINE**
Proposals are due Wednesday, October 13, 2021

♦ **OBJECTIVE**
Mellon Academic-Year Research (MAYR) Fellowships are intended to enable student-faculty teams to conduct collaborative interdisciplinary research during the regular academic year (i.e., August 15 – May 15). The program is designed to support projects focused on humanistic inquiry and involving teams of two to five participants whose work addresses at least two disciplines. The award provides each student collaborator (SC) with up to $2,500 in wages, paid hourly, for at least 20 weeks of work, and each faculty member with up to $2,000 in research funds. Faculty funds will be available as a reimbursement account for expenses associated with the collaborative project, and may not be requested as a stipend. Allowable expenses are explained below (see "Budget"). These grants are awarded on a competitive basis.

♦ **ELIGIBILITY**
Teams must include at least one faculty member and at least one student with interests and expertise in different disciplines. The grants are designed to foster collaborative work, not administrative work (copying, scanning, office, etc.). The student must be a genuine collaborator on the project. In addition, the faculty advisor will serve as an informal mentor to the student as the team collective works towards interdisciplinary, humanistic inquiry. All projects that focus on the humanities or humanistic social sciences are eligible for the award regardless of the departmental affiliation of faculty and student applicants. Eligible projects may result in work that develops into a student honors thesis, but students may not simultaneously receive academic credit and a fellowship for the same work.

MAYRs are not intended to be used by faculty during either a sabbatical or untenured faculty leave. Only in exceptional cases will the MAYRs be used to support a faculty member on sabbatical. When sufficient funds are available, applications from VAPs will be considered. Faculty are encouraged to continue collaborative relationships with students during the summer by applying for other research grants available at the University. MAYRs may not be held in conjunction with other external or internal grants that provide student support for the same project. After receiving funding for one academic year, or grant period, faculty may apply for an additional year of funding to continue productive projects.

♦ **PROPOSAL GUIDELINES**
Each application must include all components described below, assembled into a single pdf file and submitted via the link below.

1. **Completed Cover Sheet** (*see below*)

2. **Proposal:** Limit the body of the proposal to four single-spaced pages (*12-point font, reasonable margins*), although appendices may be included when appropriate. The proposal must include the following subsections:

   a. **Project Description:** Describe the project in a form intelligible to the non-specialist and explain how it meets the grant requirements for interdisciplinary and humanistic inquiry. Clearly identify the anticipated outcomes that receipt of the grant would support and explain what qualifications the student collaborator would need in order to ensure a successful collaboration. In no case should a proposal consist of simply a cover letter attached to a proposal to an outside agency.

   b. **Rationale:** Provide a rationale for the project, including its scholarly significance in the context of the interdisciplinary areas. Include a statement of the value of the proposed work to the professional development of the faculty member(s), placing the project in the context of past and future scholarship. Explain how the collaboration will introduce student** collaborator(s) to the research methods associated with one or more disciplines.

   c. **Work Plan:** Describe the project plans and provide details about the scope of the student research. Include a projected schedule or timeline that includes a clear description of student work equal to 10 hours per week for at least 20 weeks. Please note that faculty recipients are expected to mentor their student assistants in a collaborative relationship, and ensure that the work plan reflects this commitment.

   d. **Budget:** Include a budget for up to $2,000 per faculty member for research expenses and explain how the funds would be used to complete your proposed scholarly project. Allowable expenses include research materials research-related travel for both faculty and students. The funds may not be used to purchase computer equipment.

   e. **Student Collaborator(s) (SC) Interview/Hire Process:** Offering a SC position in advance and/or outside of BU's student interviewing and hiring policies is not permitted. After Dean's Office approval, the SC position must be submitted to Student Employment for the posting of the position.

3. **Current CV for each faculty team member.**

4. **Chair's/Director's letters of endorsement for each faculty team member.** Please ask your Department Chair or Program Director to provide a letter of endorsement for your project and include it with your application submission. The letter of endorsement should explain why the proposed project is significant and provide a context within which to evaluate it. Department Chairs or Program Directors who are themselves applying should ask a colleague to write this letter. Applicants are strongly encouraged to submit the proposal to the Chair/Director (or faculty member writing this letter) at least five working days before the deadline so that they may write an informed letter of endorsement.

♦ **EVALUATION OF PROPOSALS**

The goal of this grant is to support innovative interdisciplinary work done by faculty and student collaborators. The primary selection criteria includes the degree to which the proposed project will bring students and faculty together for clearly-defined projects that are likely to lead to continued investment in humanistic inquiry. The proposals will be evaluated based on quality, likelihood of success, the impact on the students' intellectual development, and the impact on the faculty members' professional and intellectual development.

♦ **DESCRIPTIVE ASSESSMENT**

Grant recipients are expected to email a descriptive assessment of their collaborative faculty-student work to BHC Administrative Assistant, Kathi Venios (klv006@bucknell.edu) by July 20, 2022. The assessment will be used to provide feedback to the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation.

♦ **COVER SHEET**

Faculty information:

Name: _____

Department: _____

Email address: _____

Year of first Bucknell appointment: _____

1. If more than one faculty member is participating in this collaboration group, please include the above information for each faculty member in the space below.

2. List all previous Bucknell grants applied for by faculty member(s). Indicate year of application and whether proposal was funded.

3. List other internal and/or external funding sources that you currently have available, or for which you are applying, for this project.

4. How many students do you expect to hire for the research project?

5. Please submit the signed Cover Sheet and your proposal, which must include the following:

    a. Project Description
    b. Rationale
    c. Work Plan
    d. Budget
    e. Department Chair's or Program Director's Letter of Endorsement
    f. Current CV(s)

_____   _____

Dept. Chair's/Program Director's Signature   **Date**

Please submit this cover sheet and the entire proposal, via this **link** as a **single pdf** file attachment. Please contact the Director, Maria Antonaccio (antoncco@bucknell.edu) with any questions regarding this grant.