

## **Mellon Confounding Problems in the Public Humanities and the Arts Undergraduate Research Assistants Proposal Guidelines (AY 2019-20)**

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### ◆ **OBJECTIVE**

Andrew W. Mellon Confounding Problems and the Public Humanities and the Arts Undergraduate Research Assistant Grants are intended to provide students and faculty in the humanities and arts at Bucknell University opportunities to explore areas identified as confounding problems. Confounding (or wicked) problems are large-scale problems that resist any simple solution – and that concern us as citizens as well as scholars. Examples include (*but are not limited to*) issues of race, identity, and security; migration and borders; climate change and adaptation; gentrification and urban renewal; diversity on campus; or the state of the liberal arts. The arts and humanities are crucial to understanding and responding to these issues in thoughtful, informed, and imaginative ways.

These grants makes available funds for faculty in the humanities, arts, and humanistic social sciences to hire undergraduate research assistants during the academic year and/or the summer. Students will be paid at a rate of \$10/hour for up to 10 hours per week during the academic year, and at a rate of \$10/hour up to 37.5 hours per week for up to 8 weeks during the summer.

### ◆ **ELIGIBILITY**

These grants are intended to enable students to work with faculty in the humanities, arts, and humanistic social sciences to pursue innovative research projects into areas identified as confounding problems, and thus play a crucial part in tackling such urgent problems. The research may be at any stage of development, and may involve a variety of forms of dissemination. Students who are full-time and in good standing are eligible for these positions. Faculty grant recipients will be required to submit a descriptive assessment of their research project at the end of the fellowship term.

### ◆ **APPLICATION DEADLINES & GUIDELINES**

Application deadline: **Monday, October 28, 2019**

Descriptive assessment deadline: **Tuesday, September 15, 2020**

Each application must include all components described below, assembled into a single pdf file and emailed as an attachment to the Faculty Ambassador for this Mellon grant, Claire Campbell ([claire.campbell@bucknell.edu](mailto:claire.campbell@bucknell.edu).) Applications that do not include all of the information requested will not be considered. Faculty considering applying are encouraged to meet with the Faculty Ambassador to discuss their proposal.

1. **Completed cover sheet** (page 3).
2. **Proposal:** Limit the body of the proposal to a maximum of two single-spaced pages (12-point font, reasonable margins), although a bibliography or 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. In particular, explain the nature of the confounding problem in question and explain how the research project furthers our understanding and response to this problem. In addition, identify the particular outcome or outcomes (for instance, a journal article or book chapter or art exhibit) that is the goal of the research project.

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- b. **Rationale:** Provide a rationale for the project, including its scholarly significance and distinction in the context of the humanistic or artistic discipline, and its contribution to furthering understanding of a confounding problem. Include a statement of how an undergraduate assistant will contribute to the student's academic development.
- c. **Work Plan:** Describe the project plans, timeline, and anticipated hours required. In particular, explain the work to be assigned to the undergraduate research student assistant and how the allocated hours will be used. Please note that faculty recipients are expected to mentor their undergraduate research student assistants in a collaborative relationship, and ensure that the work plan reflects this commitment.

### **3. Current *Curriculum Vitae*.**

- 4. **Chair's Letter of Endorsement:** Please ask your Department Chair/Program Director to provide a letter of endorsement for the project and the student participation directly to the Faculty Ambassador for this Mellon grant, Claire Campbell (claire.campbell@bucknell.edu.)

### **◆ EVALUATION OF PROPOSALS**

The proposals will be evaluated based on quality of the proposed research in connection to the theme of confounding problems, likelihood of success in completing the work plan, and the contribution of the research to the faculty and student's academic development.

### **◆ DESCRIPTIVE ASSESSMENT**

The faculty member is expected to email a descriptive assessment of their research project progress to the Faculty Ambassador for this Mellon grant, Claire Campbell (claire.campbell@bucknell.edu) no later than Tuesday, September 15, 2020.

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◆ **COVER SHEET**

Faculty information:

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Department:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Email address:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Year of first Bucknell appointment:** \_\_\_\_\_

1. Provide the title or a short description of your research project.
  
2. Please list other internal and/or external funding sources that you currently have available, or for which you are currently applying, for this project.
  
3. Please list other internal and/or external funding sources that you currently have available, or for which you are currently applying, for this project.
  
4. Please indicate if you intend to hire a student assistant during the academic year or in the 2020 summer term. (check all that apply):  

Academic Year     Summer
  
5. Department Chair's or Program Director's signature.

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Dept. Chair's/Program Director's Signature**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Date**

Please submit this cover sheet and the entire proposal, via email as a single pdf file attachment, to the Faculty Ambassador for this Mellon grant, Claire Campbell (claire.campbell@bucknell.edu), and to your Department Chair or Program Director for their letter of endorsement.