

Humanities Engage: Ph.D. Student Opportunity

Pitch Your Own Summer Immersive Fellowship

[*Humanities Engage*](#) fosters experiential learning and immersive experiences for doctoral students across our arts and humanities programs in support of our mission to deepen and broaden all students' intellectual and professional development and make Humanistic careers across all employment sectors visible, valued, and viable.

This strand of our Andrew W. Mellon Foundation-supported project supports immersives that Ph.D. students devise with host organizations of their choice. To offer students maximum flexibility to integrate immersives with their individual programs of study and dissertation research, this program supports experiences designed collaboratively between a student and a prospective host organization that cannot pay, or cannot fully pay, graduate interns (e.g., not-for-profits, public sector institutions, etc.). These experiences can range from short-term micro-consultancies to multi-month projects. Students are also eligible to apply for funding from this program to support unpaid advertised internships with not-for-profit or public-sector organizations and that run in accordance with the timeline indicated below.

Students can propose in-person, hybrid, or fully remote immersives. The feasibility of any in-person components will be assessed in accordance with the University's risk posture and COVID-19 standards and guidelines and the host organization's health and safety protocols.

- **Eligibility:** DSAS Humanities Ph.D. students with no university academic appointment in summer 2021 (TA/TF/GSA/GSR/other full summer funding) or external fellowship and who expect to be enrolled in fall 2021; preference will be given to students in the earlier years of their graduate studies and those who have not previously received funding through *Humanities Engage*.
- **Timeline:** Immersives can begin as early as May 3, 2021 and must be completed by August 20, 2021.
- ***Humanities Engage* expectations:** Contribute at least one blog post to the project website, no later than two weeks after the immersive begins; submit a reflective essay (or equivalent, e.g., video) on the experience for the project website by September 1, 2021. Participate in cohort activities. Help co-mentor subsequent cohort.
- **Consultation Requirement:** Applicants are strongly encouraged to schedule a consultation with [Dr. Marques Redd](#), Senior Director for Graduate Advising and Engagement for the Humanities (marques.redd@pitt.edu), to discuss the viability of their prospective project. Applicants considering projects with **organizations in the Pittsburgh region** are requested to contact Dr. Redd first so that he can help orient them to pre-existing contacts and liaise appropriately.

Please note the following:

International Ph.D. students will need to consult with OIS and obtain their Immigration Specialist's endorsement prior to accepting a Fellowship.

Students are responsible for reporting taxable stipend payments and for remitting any tax due to their local taxing authority.

Immersives must involve ca. 200 hours of effort. As part of their discussions with prospective host organizations, students should seek co-sponsorship to the maximum amount possible. Students securing partial funding allows us to stretch our resources to enable a larger number to benefit from these opportunities. Providing evidence of discussions or negotiation with organizations (e.g., email correspondence), even if not yielding definitive co-sponsorship, will be looked upon favorably by the selection committee. If a student receives funding from their prospective host organization, the *Humanities Engage* program will pay for the difference between such outside funding and a maximum of \$3,500. There is no guarantee that the requested stipend amount will be awarded. Students may not accept more than one *Humanities Engage* fellowship or grant of any type over the summer.

Identifying and Approaching Organizations

For examples of organizations that have previously hosted students and the types of projects immersive fellows have pursued, please see the *Humanities Engage* website here: <https://www.humanitiesengage.pitt.edu/funding-opportunities/funding-awardees>.

The below websites can also help with finding organizations that may have the capacity to collaborate on developing a project that would impact their mission:

- <https://www.volunteermatch.org/virtual-volunteering>
- <https://www.internships.com/virtual>
- <https://www.linkedin.com/jobs/virtual-internship-jobs/>

For tips on finding internships, see also: <https://sites.duke.edu/interdisciplinary/funding-opportunities/graduate-student-training-enhancement-grants-gsteg/tips-for-duke-doctoral-students-creating-your-own-internship/>

Application

For fullest consideration, please send materials by **March 26, 2021 at 5 PM**. Applications will be reviewed, and fellowship stipends awarded, on a rolling basis and as long as resources last.

To pitch a summer immersive, applicants should provide the following materials in this order and in a single .pdf to michele.krugh@pitt.edu:

A. *Cover Letter (2 pages max) addressing these key points:*

1. An overview of the project you are proposing. We look for projects that are specific and well-defined. Specify the scope, method, proposed timeline, and intended outcomes. Proposals with in-person components require a back-up plan for potentially fully remote implementation.
2. What relevant conversations have you had with your host organization? How do you plan to bring a humanistic perspective to the host organization and how do you anticipate your project will impact the organization's mission?
3. How does your project draw on your graduate studies to date, and how would the immersive experience advance your academic and professional goals?
4. Budget: committed hours of effort; amount of co-sponsorship committed by host organization and/or evidence of discussions; requested *Humanities Engage* stipend amount.

B. *Brief and current CV (2 pages max)*

C. Brief letter of support from host organization detailing its commitments (including project summary, role of the PhD student, explanation of how specifically a humanistic prospective will be valuable, supervisory and mentoring arrangements, access to relevant systems and materials, anticipated outcomes). Please specify a co-sponsorship level or why no funding would be provided.

D. Brief letter of support from primary Ph.D. advisor. (Note: This letter can also be sent directly from the faculty member to michele.krugh@pitt.edu.)