Call for Mellon Humanities Public Fellows

Apply now to be part of the inaugural cohort of Mellon Humanities Public Fellows. This fellowship is part of the new PublicsLab, which seeks to transform doctoral education for the public good and expand the career options for PhDs. All first-year doctoral students at the CUNY Graduate Center in the humanities and humanistic social sciences are invited to apply. If you have big ideas for how your graduate training can have an impact in the world, this program may be for you.

Mellon Humanities Public Fellows will participate in the Mellon-funded initiative, "Transforming Doctoral Education for the Public Good" throughout the remaining four years of their PhD careers. With the support of the PublicsLab and a variety of mentors, both inside and outside the academy, public fellows will engage in public-facing research, career training and skills acquisition, and internships at a range of organizations. Their fellowship activities will replace teaching and WAC service.

Who is this for?
All first year PhD students in the humanities and humanistic social sciences are eligible to apply for the Mellon Humanities Public Fellows program.

The program is an opportunity to play a leadership role in re-imagining doctoral education to secure the future of the humanities both inside and outside of higher education. It is intended for graduate students who wish to think broadly about their doctoral education; to consider careers both inside and outside the academy; and to reimagine humanistic doctoral education as something undertaken for the public good. The goal of the program is not to preclude students from going on the academic job market; rather, it is to provide students with a greater variety of professional options post-PhD.

What will I do as a Public Fellow?
In the first two years of their fellowship, Public Fellows will attend seminars that provide introductions and intensive exposure to diverse career fields and industries and workshops and practicums that focus on specific skills and training. In year two, fellows will undertake a short residency at the GC Digital Initiative to prepare to use new technologies, data-driven inquiry, and digital humanities tools. In years three and four, fellows will pursue internships and teaching opportunities.

What will I gain from being a Public Fellow?
Throughout the program, Public Fellows will receive mentorship from a faculty mentor assigned to them from their department, as well as the Mellon project's faculty lead. The PublicsLab will serve as a second institutional home for the fellows, coordinating activities and providing support and guidance. Mellon Humanities Public Fellows will complete their doctoral programs prepared to pursue any number of careers in higher education, business, government, or the nonprofit sector.

Additionally, Public Fellows will have access to all the benefits of a Graduate Center Fellowship, including NYSHIP.

To apply, please submit the following through the online application no later than 1 February 2019:

- A 2-page CV
- A letter of interest of no more than 1000 words. Successful applicants will articulate not only what they will gain from the program, but also the experiences, skills, and knowledge that they will contribute to the cohort. They will also articulate how their values as scholars and people fit with the program. Applicants are encouraged to discuss their research in light of its public potential, but they are not expected to have a fully formed project.

In addition, we ask for one letter of recommendation, with an optional second:

- One letter must be written by a Graduate Center faculty member.
- The second, optional letter of recommendation may be written by someone outside the GC, such as an undergraduate adviser or a former employer.

Letters of recommendation should be emailed as PDFs directly to shartman2@gc.cuny.edu. They should be received by 1 February 2019.

Please direct questions about the fellowship to Dr. Stacy Hartman, director of the PublicsLab, at shartman2@gc.cuny.edu, or Professor Bianca Williams, Faculty Lead, at bwilliams@gc.cuny.edu. Dr. Hartman will hold office hours to discuss the fellowship with potential applicants on the following dates:

Tuesday, 11 December from 11:00am to 1:00pm
Wednesday, 12 December from 4:00–5:30pm
Friday, 14 December from 1:00 to 3:00pm

After 14 December, please email Dr. Hartman to make an appointment either in person or via Skype.

APPLY