

The Andrew W. Mellon Summer Academy and Undergraduate Curatorial Fellowship Program at the MFAH

Eligibility

Who is eligible to apply?

- Undergraduates currently enrolled at a university, college, or community college.
- Undergraduates who, if selected as a fellow, can commit to two years in the program with graduation planned for May 2020 or a later date (typically a current freshman or sophomore or a nontraditional student with two years of undergraduate study remaining).
- Individuals from historically underrepresented groups in the curatorial field and those who support the goal of promoting diversity, inclusion, and pluralistic museums. For more information, please view the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation's 2015 "[Art Museum Staff Demographic Survey](#)."
- Individuals who are eligible to work in the United States.

What other qualifications are preferred?

- Demonstrate interest in art, art history, or the museum field.
- Enrollment at a university, college, or community college located near a partner museum: Art Institute of Chicago (AIC); the High Museum of Art, Atlanta (High); the Los Angeles County Museum of Art (LACMA); the Museum of Fine Arts, Houston (MFAH); the Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art, Kansas City (NAMA); and the Philadelphia Museum of Art (PMA). Please apply to one of the six museums based on which one is closest to your academic institution.
- Openness to the idea of pursuing an MA or PhD in fields such as art history or museum studies, advancing the goal of a career as an art-museum curator.

Summer Academy

What is the Summer Academy?

The Summer Academy is a one-week intensive program consisting of workshops, behind-the-scenes tours, field trips, and networking events with curators and museum professionals. Summer Academies are designed to provide a rich experience in the museum environment and expose participants to career options related to art and art history.

How long is the Summer Academy?

Summer Academy participants must spend one week at their host museum.

Is there financial support to participate in the Summer Academy?

Yes. Summer Academy participants will receive a daily per diem for the week, totaling \$350 (\$50/day). If students do not live in the location of the Summer Academy host museum, a modest travel stipend may be provided. Housing accommodations will also be made available for participants at a university campus close to the museum.

How many students will be selected for each Summer Academy?

Fifteen students will be selected for each Summer Academy at each museum.

When will students be notified if they have been selected to participate in a Summer Academy?

Students will be notified in April 2018 for the Museum of Fine Arts, Houston. Notification dates will vary for the other partnering museums.

Should I attend a college close to one of the partner museums?

Yes, this is preferred. Students from the Summer Academy selected for the Mellon Undergraduate Curatorial Fellowship program will be paired with a mentor at the host museum with whom they will work on projects and meet regularly during the academic year and summer.

The Mellon Undergraduate Curatorial Fellowship Program

What is the Fellowship Program?

The Mellon Undergraduate Curatorial Fellowship is a two-year program providing fellows with hands-on experience inside a museum setting, working with curators and staff on exhibitions, collections, and programs.

How long is the Fellowship Program?

Fellows can expect to spend two years at their host museum. During the academic year, fellows must meet with their mentors and with a local program coordinator on a regular basis. In the summer, fellows will have a 10-week intensive experience working full-time (35 hours/week) with their curatorial mentors. Fellows participate in a yearly national convening at one of the partner museums rotating annually, and they will engage their fellow participants across the country in an online community platform.

Is there financial support to participate in the fellowship program?

Yes. Once selected as a fellow, students will receive \$4,000 during the academic school year to alleviate financial pressures that might otherwise require a student to pursue part-time work or work-study arrangements. In addition, fellows will receive \$6,000 during the summer internships. A travel stipend is provided to the fellows along with a housing stipend for the summer.

How are fellows selected?

Students must first apply to a Summer Academy held at one of the partnering museums. After completing the Summer Academy, participants will submit supplemental materials for consideration for the Fellowship Program.

Do I apply to the Summer Academy and the Fellowship Program separately?

No. Students must first apply and participate in the Summer Academy in order to be considered for the Fellowship Program.

How many students will be selected to be fellows?

Two fellows will be selected following each Summer Academy.

If I applied to a Summer Academy and was not selected to participate in it, can I reapply to the next Summer Academy?

Yes, you may apply to the program if you still meet all the eligibility requirements.

If I applied to a Summer Academy and participated in it but was not selected to be a fellow, can I apply to the next Summer Academy?

No. Students who participate in a Summer Academy may not reapply to the program, but may be considered for opportunities at the museum in the future.