

## Humanities Engage: Ph.D. Student Opportunity – AY 2021-2022

### Pitch Your Own Immersive Fellowship

[\*Humanities Engage\*](#) fosters experiential learning and immersive experiences for doctoral students across our arts and humanities Ph.D. 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 501(c)(3) organizations in the social impact sector, public sector institutions, or industry. 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. 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 501(c)(3)s or public-sector organizations and that run in accordance with the timeline indicated below. Students are discouraged from proposing immersives that focus on areas covered well by, or most closely related to, existing training, such as teaching or editorial roles in academic or academic-adjacent settings.

Students can propose in-person or hybrid immersives. Immersives will need to be conducted within University guidance on COVID-19 standards and guidelines and the host organization's health and safety protocols.

Students are eligible to apply for stipends in the amount of \$1,000 (minimum commitment: 50 hours), \$1,500 (75 hours), or \$2,000 (100 hours) per academic year. If funding is received from a prospective host organization, the program will pay for the difference between such outside funding and a maximum of \$2,000 (100 hours commitment). Students are eligible to apply for funds toward one project at a time. There is no guarantee that the requested stipend amount will be awarded.

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 co-sponsorship, will be looked upon favorably by the selection committee.

- **Eligibility:** DSAS Humanities Ph.D. students who started their graduate programs no later than fall 2020 and expect to be enrolled in the term(s) for which they seek funding and at least one fall or spring term after the completion of their immersive. 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 start after funds are awarded and stipulated requirements have been completed; immersives must be started by March 1, 2022 and be completed by June 30, 2022.
- ***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 within two weeks of completing the immersive. Participate in at least 5 hours of 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](mailto: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.
- **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* [Funding Awardees](#) website.

**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.

**Application**

For fullest consideration, please send your materials by **Monday, August 30, 2021 at 5 PM**. Applications will be reviewed, and grants awarded, on a rolling basis and as long as resources last.

**To pitch your immersive, please provide the following materials in this order and in a single .pdf to [michele.krugh@pitt.edu](mailto: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. Specify a back-up plan for potentially fully remote implementation should public health contexts require it.
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? How will your host organization supervisor provide mentorship to support you through this project?
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 Ph.D. 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](mailto:michele.krugh@pitt.edu).)*