**African American Creative Writing Fellowship**

The African American Fellowship in Creative Writing is intended to allow the Creative Writing Program to recruit talented graduate creative writers with an interest in African American culture and literature. All creative writers who apply to the University of Houston’s graduate Creative Writing Program will be considered for this award.

Normally, the award is for $10,000/year, plus tuition remission. These awards are renewable at least once, depending on student performance in the graduate program; these fellowships can be awarded for a maximum 3 years MFA and 5 years PhD, although usually the award will be for 2 years. Depending on funding, 1 or 2 fellowships are awarded per year.

**Criteria**

1. The single most important criterion is the quality of the applicant’s creative writing sample. Faculty in the genre independently evaluates the creative writing sample and then come to a collective decision about it.
2. Letters of recommendation: these will be given weight especially when they speak specifically to the applicant’s creative potential and to the applicant’s discipline and focus. For students currently in the Creative Writing Program, recommendations from UH faculty members that speak to the student’s work are particularly important.
3. Statement of intent: this criterion is used primarily to confirm that the applicant is focused and is likely to complete a degree plan on time.
4. Undergraduate and graduate grades
5. GRE scores
6. Nine hours of classes per semester
7. GPA of 3.0 or better

**Fellowship Committee**

The fellowship committees for the Creative Writing Program are composed of the entire Creative Writing faculty in a particular genre. The 3 genre are poetry, fiction, and nonfiction. The faculty in each of the genres meets and discusses candidates for fellowships, and it then transmits its decisions on the awarding of the fellowships to the Director of the Creative Writing Program. If a fellowship can only be awarded in one genre, the creative writing faculty meets as a whole and decides in which genre the fellowship should be awarded.

**Procedure for the Award**

A determination is made as to whether or not a student meets the criteria for the award and a recommendation is made by the Director with the approval of the committee to award the fellowship.
C.J. FUND FOR GRADUATE CREATIVE WRITING PROGRAM STUDENT GRANTS

Award Amount/Method

The amount of funding will vary significantly from support for student recruiting to support of students in the later phases of graduate study, especially when such support will aid them in the completion of their theses by freeing up time to write.

Eligibility

Fellowship recipient must be a full-time graduate degree-seeking student in good standing at the University of Houston and must maintain a GPA of 3.0 or better.

Must be enrolled in at least 3 hours of classes per semester

Criteria

Recruiting Fellowships:

1. The quality of the student’s creative writing—this is based on the evaluation of the creative writing sample that was submitted as part of the application for admission.

2. The potential of the student to contribute to the graduate creative writing community at the University of Houston.

3. The need of the Creative Writing Program to make an offer to valued student who has received a significant offer from a competing program.

Fellowships for Advanced Students:

1. The quality of a student’s creative work—serious weight will be given to the work in progress that is intended to be the student’s Masters or Doctoral thesis.

2. The probability that the student, with the support of a fellowship, will complete the project for which the fellowship was awarded.

3. Priority will be given to students who are nearing the completion of their degree.

Procedure for the Award

1. In the case of incoming students, the faculty committee will take into consideration a student’s background, including but not limited to, first generation college students, those from impoverished backgrounds, those who were raised in challenging circumstances, those with fluency in a second language and students with unique backgrounds that can bring varied perspectives to the program.
2. Any fellowship recipient may accept other scholarships, fellowships and grants in conjunction with the C.J. Fund.

3. Funds can be used for stipends, and to cover expenses for tuition, books, fees, and/or supplies for the coming academic year. Any expenses of a recipient in excess of the amount of the fellowship must be borne by the student.

**Awards**

Those selected for fellowships are notified by the Director of Creative Writing either by letter or by email. In the case of fellowships for professional enhancement and, possibly for completing a manuscript, the fellowship may take the form of course release from the student’s teaching assistantship, in which case the fellowship funding would be used to purchase the course release for the Department of English.

**Fellowship Committees**

The fellowship committees for the Creative Writing Program are composed of all the Creative Writing faculty members in a particular genre. The 3 genres are poetry, fiction and non-fiction. The faculty in each of the genres meets and discusses candidates for fellowships, and then transmits its decisions on the awarding of the fellowships to the Director of the Creative Writing Program. If a fellowship can only be awarded in one genre, the creative writing faculty meets as a whole and decides in which genre the fellowship should be awarded.
Continuing Support Fellowship from the Creative Writing Program

The goal of this fellowship is to provide financial support to graduate students in good standing who have not yet received an assistantship. Its intent is to help these students with the cost of their graduate education and to ensure they are not prevented from completing their degrees because of a lack of financial support.

Students do not apply for this fellowship but they are nominated by faculty in Creative Writing. The determination of who receives these fellowships is made by the Creative Writing faculty after discussing the students, the quality of their work in the program, and the urgency of their need.

Criteria

1. Student cannot already hold (or have been offered) a graduate assistantship that awards tuition remission in the Department of English at the University of Houston. If a student gives up an assistantship, that student will not be considered eligible for this fellowship.
2. Student cannot currently hold an assistantship that awards tuition remission in another unit at the University of Houston.
3. Student cannot currently hold another major fellowship from Creative Writing such as the African American fellowship or a Mitchell Center fellowship.
4. Student must be in good standing in the Creative Writing Program and making adequate progress toward degree.
5. In the case of first-year students, faculty can consult their application to determine that they are a student of high caliber.
6. In the case of students who have been in the program for more than a year, faculty in the student’s primary genre will collectively decide whether the student’s work in that genre has been of high quality.
7. The award is given on a semester’s basis and the receiving of an award for one semester does not imply or guarantee that the award will be renewed. If there are funds available, however, the faculty will consider renewing the award.
8. Students must be enrolled for 9 credit hours and have a 3.0 cumulative GPA for work completed at UH.
Creative Writing Program Recruiting Fellowships

Award Amount/Method

Normally, this will be a fellowship for $5,000—paid out in two installments of $2,500. One of these installments is paid out during the graduate student’s first semester, and the second installment is usually paid out during the student’s penultimate semester. However, the Director of Creative Writing can allow for the second installment to be paid earlier, if there is a sufficient reason. Such reasons could include financial hardship or the need for support for a creative project. In unusual cases, the fellowship could be for $10,000 (paid out in 4 installments). Such an award could be made in the recruiting of an exceptional student, if the faculty in the student’s genre determined that this was, indeed, an exceptional student.

Eligibility Requirements

Admission to the Graduate Creative Writing Program at the University of Houston. Normally students will need to enroll in the fall semester of the academic year; however, exceptions can be made if a student needs to postpone enrolling until spring semester.

Criteria

- Student must be admitted to the Graduate Creative Writing Program by the faculty in the student’s genre. Normally admission to a genre is sufficient to make a student eligible for a recruiting fellowship. In particular cases, faculty may specify that a student is admitted but not eligible for a recruiting fellowship. This would happen if the faculty felt, based on creative writing sample, letters of recommendation, and personal statement, that the student met the minimal standards for admission but was not as strong a candidate for admission as the rest of the entering class. The most likely scenario for this exception would be a student admitted under special circumstances, such as a student who was required for family reasons to stay in Houston so would not have the opportunity to attend a graduate creative writing program if UH did not admit him or her.

Procedure for the Award

Normally, the fellowship award will be offered at the time of admission to the graduate creative writing program. The Director of the Creative Writing receives from the faculty their ranking of applicants—those who will be offered admission and those who will be waitlisted. The Director, with the approval of the faculty, then awards some recruiting fellowships from Inprint (a nonprofit organization that helps support the UH Creative Writing Program) and some UH recruiting fellowships. The receipt of this fellowship does not make students ineligible for other graduate fellowships.
Awards

Those students who are selected will be notified by phone or email, and they will receive a formal letter announcing the admission and the fellowship.

Fellowship Committees for the Creative Writing Program

The fellowship committees for the Creative Writing Program are composed of the entire Creative Writing faculty in a particular genre. The 3 genre are poetry, fiction, and nonfiction. The faculty in each of the genres meets and discusses candidates for fellowships, and it then transmits its decisions on the awarding of the fellowships to the Director of the Creative Writing Program. If a fellowship can only be awarded in one genre, the creative writing faculty meets as a whole and decides in which genre the fellowship should be awarded.
Creative Writing Program Scholarships

Award Amount/Method

The amount of funding for this scholarship varies significantly from several hundred dollars to support graduate student travel to a conference to $10,000 to support extended work on the completion of a manuscript that is to be submitted for publication as a book.

Eligibility

Graduate students in Creative writing who are enrolled for at least one credit hour in the long academic semester (the fall or spring semester) for which the award is given. Creative Writing Graduate students who are awarded a fellowship for creative or scholarly work or for travel or other activities related to their academic work during the summer are not required to enroll for any credit hours.

Criteria

1. Selection for attendance and participation in a major conference or national workshop.
2. A creative project that has been evaluated by the Creative Writing Program faculty in that genre as having special merit and a strong likelihood of publication.
3. Travel and/or research tied directly to a creative project that has been evaluated as having merit by the Creative Writing Program faculty in that genre.

Procedure for the Award

In the case of student applying for a scholarship for travel to and participation in a major conference or national workshop, students will provide the Director of the Creative Writing Program with a formal letter of acceptance to the conference or workshop, and the Director and Assistant Director, with the approval of the CWP fellowship committee, will approve the request for the scholarship based upon funds available, on whether the student has funds available from other sources, on whether the student has previously received funding (those who have not previously received funding will be given priority) and on the relevance of the conference or workshop to the student’s creative work. In the case of students seeking scholarships either to work on a manuscript or to undertake travel or research as part of a creative project, that student will need to submit a brief written account of the project or the need for travel or research and also have a letter of support from a faculty in the student’s major genre. The CWP faculty will then consider these requests, allocating funding on the basis of funds available, the merit of the project, and on whether the student has previously received support (other things being equal, those students who have not previously received support will be given priority).
Awards

Those selected for fellowships are notified by the Director of Creative Writing either by letter or by email. In the case of fellowships for professional enhancement and, possibly for completing a manuscript, the fellowship may take the form of course release from the student’s teaching assistantship, in which case the fellowship funding would be used to purchase the course release from the English Dept.

Fellowship Committees for the Creative Writing Program

The fellowship committees for the Creative Writing Program are composed of the entire Creative Writing faculty in a particular genre. The 3 genre are poetry, fiction, and nonfiction. The faculty in each of the genres meets and discusses candidates for fellowships, and it then transmits its decisions on the awarding of the fellowships to the Director of the Creative Writing Program. If a fellowship can only be awarded in one genre, the creative writing faculty meets as a whole and decides in which genre the fellowship should be awarded.
Cullen Foundation Chair and Inprint Endowment Fellowships

Procedures for awarding these fellowships:

1. Creative Writing faculty members will nominate students whom they judge to be strong candidates for these fellowships. All students, including those to whom admission is being offered, are eligible to be nominated for one of these fellowships.

2. The faculty will meet as a whole on a yearly basis and determine the number of fellowships to be awarded and the amount or amounts of the fellowships. The number of fellowships, the amount of the fellowships, and the level of student targeted for the fellowship can vary from year to year, depending on the needs of the Creative Writing program, as determined by the yearly faculty discussion.

3. The criterion to be used to determine the awards for current students is the quality of the creative and academic work during their graduate studies at UH, with special weight being given to the quality of the creative work. The criterion to be used to determine awards for newly admitted students is their promise as writers and scholars as determined by a wholistic review of their admission file, with special weight being given to the quality of the writing sample. The final determination of the awards will be made by a vote of the faculty as a whole.
Cynthia Woods Mitchell Center for Collaboration Among the Arts Fellowships

Award Amount/Method

This fellowship is normally awarded in late spring or in the summer but may also be used as a recruiting fellowship. Depending upon funds available, we award 3-5 fellowships a year of up to $5,000.00.

Eligibility

Graduate students in Creative Writing who are enrolled for at least 3 credit hour/semester for each of the long academic semesters (6 credit hours for the academic year).

Criteria

For continuing students:

- A demonstrated interest in collaborative work among the arts: this interest can be demonstrated through enrollment in courses that emphasize collaboration among the arts or through individual projects that involve collaboration between artists in more than one field.

For incoming students:

- A strong evaluation by the Creative Writing fellowship committee in the student’s particular genre. This evaluation is an assessment by the faculty in the student’s genre based on the student’s creative writing sample, the supporting letters of recommendation and the student’s statement of intent.

Procedure for the Award

For incoming students, the Creative Writing fellowship committee provides the Director of Creative Writing with the ranking of the incoming class. The Director, with the approval of the faculty, allocates the fellowships according to ranking. Students who have been awarded UH Presidential fellowships for that academic year are moved to the bottom of the ranked list since they are already receiving support from the University of Houston. For continuing students, the Director of Creative Writing monitors work in the Collaborative Arts call and seeks to offer support for students who either continue collaborative work begun in that class and begin new collaborative projects or projects outside their chosen academic fields.

Awards

Those selected for fellowships are notified by the Director of Creative Writing either by letter or by email.
Fellowship Committees for the Creative Writing Program

The fellowship committees for the Creative Writing Program are composed of the entire Creative Writing faculty in a particular genre. The 3 genre are poetry, fiction, and nonfiction. The faculty in each of the genres meets and discusses candidates for fellowships, and it then transmits its decisions on the awarding of the fellowships to the Director of the Creative Writing Program. If a fellowship can only be awarded in one genre, the creative writing faculty meets as a whole and decides in which genre the fellowship should be awarded.
**Daniel Stern Fellowship in Creative Writing**

Under the terms of the grant in honor of Daniel Stern, fellowships will be awarded each year to graduate students in creative writing who, in the judgment of creative writing faculty, are making significant progress on a major project, typically a graduate thesis, which ideally will lead to publication. The amounts of these fellowships may vary from recipient to recipient, as determined by the creative writing faculty, though the total amount awarded in any academic year may not exceed $10,000.

**Criteria**

- The student must be in good academic standing in the Creative Writing Program.
- The student must be nominated for a fellowship by a member of the creative writing faculty.
- The student must, in the judgment of creative writing faculty, be making significant progress on a substantial writing project, typically a thesis or dissertation.
- The fellowship will generally be granted to support the student’s writing during the summer, though a fellowship can be awarded for some other period according to special circumstances.
- Special consideration will be given to advanced graduate students who have already made substantial and significant progress toward their degrees, especially in their major writing projects.

The fellowship requires that the student acknowledge the Daniel Stern Memorial Fund in the thesis or dissertation and that a bound copy be sent to his widow, Gloria Stern.
International Student Creative Writing Fellowship

The International Student Fellowship in Creative Writing is intended to provide supplementary support to talented graduate students in the Creative Writing Program who are in good academic standing in the Program. These fellowships are intended to address particular financial burdens that accompany graduate study for International Students. All International Students in Creative Writing who apply to the University of Houston’s graduate creative writing will be considered for this award.

Normally, the award is for $1,500/year. These awards are renewable and they can be awarded up to 3 years for an MFA student and 5 years for a PhD student. The awards are dependent upon funding available for a particular academic year.

Criteria

1. The single most important criterion is the quality of the applicant’s creative writing sample. Faculty in the genre independently evaluates the creative writing sample and then comes to a collective decision about it.
2. Letters of recommendation: these will be given weight especially when they speak specifically to the applicant’s creative potential and to the applicant’s discipline and focus. For students currently in the Creative Writing Program, recommendations from UH faculty members that speak to the student’s work are particularly important.
3. Statement of intent: this criterion is used primarily to confirm that the applicant is focused and is likely to complete a degree plan on time.
4. Undergraduate and graduate grades.
5. GRE scores.

Scholarship Committee

The scholarship/fellowship committees for the Creative Writing Program are composed of the entire Creative Writing faculty in a particular genre. The 3 genre are poetry, fiction, and nonfiction. The faculty in each of the genres meets and discusses candidates for fellowships, and it then transmits its decisions on the awarding of the fellowships to the Director of the Creative Writing Program. If a fellowship can only be awarded in one genre, the creative writing faculty meets as a whole and decides in which genre the fellowship should be awarded.
Progression Fellowship Guidelines

Available to all graduate students who are not currently holding a teaching assistantship at UH or who have not received a UH Competitive Scholarship of $1,000 or more for the current academic year or who have not received the final payment of their original Inprint Recruiting Fellowship.

Criteria

1. Must have sustained excellence in graduate course work at UH.
2. Must show evidence of reasonable progress toward degree.

Fellowship Committee

The fellowship committees for the Creative Writing Program are composed of the entire Creative Writing faculty in a particular genre. The 3 genre are poetry, fiction, and nonfiction. The faculty in each of the genres meets and discusses candidates for fellowships, and it then transmits its decisions on the awarding of the fellowships to the Director of the Creative Writing Program. If a fellowship can only be awarded in one genre, the creative writing faculty meets as a whole and decides in which genre the fellowship should be awarded.

Procedure for the Award

A determination is made as to whether or not a student meets the criteria for the award and a recommendation is made by the Director with the approval of the committee to award the fellowship.
Recruitment Yield Fellowships

Recruitment Yield Fellowships are intended to allow the Creative Writing Program to recruit exceptional graduate creative writers. All applicants who are accepted into the Creative Writing Graduate Program are eligible for consideration.

Criteria

1. The single most important criterion is the quality of the applicant’s creative writing sample. Faculty in the genre independently evaluates the creative writing sample and then comes to a collective decision about it.
2. A competing offer from another graduate creative writing program. It is not a requirement that a student have a competing offer from another graduate program but special weight will be given when such an offer exists.
3. Letters of recommendation: these will be given weight especially when they speak specifically to the applicant’s creative potential and to the applicant’s discipline and focus.
4. Statement of intent: this criterion is used primarily to confirm that the applicant is focused and is likely to complete a degree plan on time.
5. Undergraduate and graduate grades
6. GRE scores

Fellowship Committee

The fellowship committees for the Creative Writing Program are composed of the entire Creative Writing faculty in a particular genre. The 3 genre are poetry, fiction, and nonfiction. The faculty in each of the genres meets and discusses candidates for fellowships, and it then transmits its decisions on the awarding of the fellowships to the Director of the Creative Writing Program. If a fellowship can only be awarded in one genre, the creative writing faculty meets as a whole and decides in which genre the fellowship should be awarded.

Procedure for the Award

A determination is made as to whether or not a student meets the criteria for the award and a recommendation is made by the Director with the approval of the committee to award the fellowship.
UH Presidential Fellowships

These fellowships are intended to allow the Creative Writing Program to recruit exceptional applicants in creative writing. All applicants who are accepted into the program are eligible for consideration as part of the admissions process. They are awarded by the UH Office of Graduate and Professional Studies. Students are recommended by the departmental scholarship committees.

The dollar amount and the number of fellowships awarded can vary from year to year and is dependent upon the total pool of funding for the fellowships in a particular year. Normally the fellowship is awarded for the first two years and paid out over the first 4 long semesters of a graduate student’s enrollment at UH. Last year the fellowships were for $4,000 and were paid out $1,000/semester for the first 4 semesters.

Criteria

1. The single most important criterion is the quality of the applicant’s creative writing sample. Faculty in the genre independently evaluates the creative writing sample and then comes to a collective decision about it. Of special concern is the student’s promise as a writer.
2. Letters of recommendation: these will be given weight especially when they speak specifically to the applicant’s creative potential and to the applicant’s discipline and focus.
3. Statement of intent: this criterion is used primarily to confirm that the applicant is focused and is likely to complete a degree plan on time.
4. Publications and experience of particular relevance to graduate education in creative writing.
5. Undergraduate and graduate grades
6. GRE scores

Procedure for the Award

A determination is made as to whether or not a student meets the criteria for the award and a recommendation is made by the Director with the approval of the committee to award the fellowship.