

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 Requirements:

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 all the 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 meet as a whole and decide in which genre the fellowship should be awarded.

Recruiting Fellowships Creative Writing Program

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 all the Creative Writing faculty in a particular genre. The 3 genre are poetry, fiction, and nonfiction. The

Fellowships Overview

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 meet as a whole and decide in which genre the fellowship should be awarded.

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 evaluate 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

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Fellowships Overview

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

The 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 evaluate the creative writing sample and then come 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

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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 evaluate the creative writing sample and then come 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

Scholarship Committee

The scholarship/fellowship committees for the Creative Writing Program are composed of all the 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 meet as a whole and decide in which genre the fellowship should be awarded.

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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.

Michener Fellowships

Award Amount/Method:

This fellowship is an occasional fellowship, awarded on an individual basis when it helps the program to support students who encounter financial emergencies, students who require supplementary funding to complete a manuscript, or advanced students who have an occasion to enhance their professional development. The amounts of the fellowships vary. There is a limited amount of funding for the Michener fellowships, and when that funding has been expended, there will no longer be funding available for these fellowships.

Eligibility Requirements:

Graduate students in Creative Writing who are enrolled for at least 3 credit hours/semester for each of the long academic semesters (6 credit hours for the academic year). Preference will be given to student nearing the completion of their degree.

Criteria:

- good academic standing within the graduate creative writing program
- in the case of emergency fellowships, a clear and demonstrated need for financial assistance
- in the case of fellowships for completing a manuscript or for professional development, a letter of recommendation from a creative writing faculty member, and a clear description of the manuscript or the professional development project

Procedure for the Award:

Students do not apply for these fellowships. They are nominated by the faculty or, in the case of financial emergency, by the assistant director for creative writing. The Director consults with graduate creative writing faculty in the genre or, in the case of financial emergency, with the assistant director and allocates funds appropriately. The Director then places a memo in both the student's file and in the Michener fellowship file justifying the decision—explaining the need for the fellowship and the reasons supporting its award.

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:

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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 Requirements:

Graduate students in Creative Writing who are enrolled for at least 1 credit hour/semester during the semester for which the award is given.

Criteria:

- selection for attendance and participation in a major conference or national workshop
- 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
- 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.

Fellowships Overview

Fellowship Committees for the Creative Writing Program: The fellowship committees for the Creative Writing Program are composed of all the 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 meet as a whole and decide 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:

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

Fellowship Committee

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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.