

South Carolina Humanities

Student Research Fellowship Guidelines

SC Humanities' program encourages students to self-identify as aspiring scholars before an advanced degree is earned. We ask students to take their curiosity on a given humanities subject and thoughtfully investigate it using primary source research, with the guidance of a faculty advisor.

Fellowships for Undergraduate Students

Fellowships are available and awarded on a competitive basis to undergraduate students in their sophomore or junior years attending an accredited university or college in the State of South Carolina to explore research and scholarship in the humanities. Student Research Fellowships support research in the study of history, philosophy and ethics, literature, linguistics, languages, jurisprudence, cultural anthropology, archaeology, comparative religions, art history and/or criticism, folklore, or interdisciplinary scholarship in these areas. Special consideration is given to projects that have a South Carolina focus or component.

How many fellowships are awarded each year?

SC Humanities is a nonprofit organization that relies on fundraising for programming, and the number of fellowships and the award amounts fluctuate annually. These amounts will be posted on our website each year.

Who is eligible for a Student Research Fellowship from SC Humanities?

Any currently registered undergraduate student in their sophomore or junior year in good academic standing attending an accredited university or college may apply. Faculty may identify promising students, but the student is responsible for the application. The application must designate a faculty advisor.

Do I need to provide official transcripts?

We do not require an official transcript from the institution; however, the student/applicant must submit a completed Enrollment Verification Form that has been signed and stamped by the Registrar.

What is the role of the faculty advisor?

The faculty advisor provides guidance in developing an argument for your proposed project, can help identify additional research resources, can advise in public program ideas, and will need to write a letter of recommendation that describes why you would be deserving of a SC Humanities Student Research Fellowship. We recommend that you chose a faculty advisor that you've taken a class from or are currently taking a class from. The student must report to the faculty advisor on a regular basis, and the faculty advisor should send at least one update to SC Humanities staff during the project's duration.

What does a Student Research Fellowship support?

Scholarly projects which are not routine requirements for a course or degree program are eligible for support on a competitive basis.

What does the fellowship pay for?

Fellowships are paid in a lump sum as a stipend to the student/applicant, and may be used to pay the costs of equipment, supplies, software, technical support, or travel to do research.

Is public presentation of my research findings a condition of receiving a Student Research Fellowship from SC Humanities?

Yes. Each student fellow must develop his or her research results into a public program (e.g., a lecture or exhibit) which will be presented in **at least one South Carolina venue to out-of-school adult audiences**. SC Humanities staff will help schedule the student fellow to appear at the annual South Carolina Humanities Festival or another appropriate presentation venue. In addition to the required presentation to an out-of-school adult audience, students may wish to present their research findings in other venues that focus on student research, though this is **not a requirement** of the Student Research Fellowship program. Possible venues for this kind of presentation include, but are not limited to, the National Conference on Undergraduate Research, the National Undergraduate Literature Conference, and the various professional conferences associated with the humanities.

What does a public program look like, and where do I conduct it?

You can choose any format: Lecture, Discussion, Media Discussion, Media Production, Workshop, Panel, Symposia, Conference, or Exhibit. Your public program must be designed for a nonacademic adult audience. SC Humanities staff can help schedule the student fellow to appear at the annual South Carolina Humanities Festival or another appropriate presentation venue.

Must I credit SC Humanities in any publication that results from work I completed during the fellowship period?

Yes. You must also present SC Humanities with a copy of any product of the fellowship (book, manuscript, article, website, etc.) even if it's 5 years later.

When should I submit the application?

Submit your application to SC Humanities no later than the deadline listed on the website. SC Humanities staff is happy to review draft applications prior to the deadline and make suggestions on how the application might be strengthened before the committee reviews it.

What supporting material must I include with my application?

You must attach with the completed application:

- An abbreviated curriculum vitae or resume (two pages maximum)
- A recommendation letter from your faculty advisor that describes why the student/applicant would be deserving of a SC Humanities Student Research Fellowship
- The Enrollment Verification Form

Budget:

You will need to estimate expenses associated with your proposed project and create a budget that itemizes the expenses. You may budget for the costs of equipment, supplies, software, technical support, or travel to do research. There are limits to the amount you can apply for in order to offset per diem and travel costs associated with research and/ or the required public program. SC Humanities will only cover \$100 per night for lodging, coach rate airfare, and \$.50 per mile if traveling by car. The maximum SC Humanities per diem for meals is \$40 per day.