

## I. MMUF Summer Opportunities

### For Current Seniors

#### 1. SSRC Mellon Mays 2017 Annual Graduate Student Summer Conference

**Website:**

<http://www.ssrc.org/programs/component/mellon-mays-graduate-initiatives-program/mellon-mays-graduate-student-summer-conference/>

**Dates:** June 21-23, 2017 (University of New Mexico)

**Deadline:** Abstract submission - February 28; Registration - April 7

**Application Components:** Abstract (if presenting)

**Description:**

The Summer Conference provides valuable resources for navigating graduate school, as well as important networking opportunities with senior scholars and the national community of MMUF fellows. It is open to graduating seniors through third-year graduate students. Beginning this year, there is no limit on attendance.

### For Current Juniors

#### 2. University of Chicago 2017 MMUF Summer Research Training Program

**Website:** <http://mellonmays.uchicago.edu/summer>

**Program Dates:** Monday, June 12-Saturday, August 12, 2017 (9 weeks)

**Deadline:** March 15

**Application Components:** Statement of Research Interests; Essay - Intellectual Self Portrait (~500 words); optional essay questions; short answer questions; Recommendation from MMUF mentor (due April 1); Transcript;

**Cost:** \$1500 (may be paid for by a combination of BMC MMUF and your summer stipend)

**Description:** The MMUF Summer Research Training Program (SRTP) at the University of Chicago prepares current Mellon Mays Undergraduate Fellows for graduate study and rigorous research. A structured program, in the SRTP students complete courses in academic writing and social theory, are closely mentored by advanced graduate students and faculty, attend multiple workshops and make presentations at the Chicago Research Symposium. Through the SRTP, students deepen their analytic and creative capacities, develop further their scholarly writing and presentation skills, explore research approaches and methodologies relevant to their areas of study, and experience a unique community living among others who share both a passion for ideas and research as well as common values and commitments. The experience of community fostered by the SRTP takes its inspiration from the life and work of Benjamin Mays--alumnus of the University of Chicago and life-long civil rights activist--in whose honor the Mellon Mays Undergraduate Fellowship is named.

**NOTE FROM WEBSITE:** Seats in this program fill very quickly. We may be able to extend this deadline up to March 30. The sooner you apply, the more likely we are going to be able to offer you a seat in the program.

#### 3. UCLA 2017 Mellon Mays Writing and Research Training Program

**Website:** <http://hass.ugresearch.ucla.edu/mmsummer.htm>

**Program Dates:** Saturday, June 25-Saturday, August 5, 2017 (6 weeks)

**Deadline:** March 1, 2017

**Application Components:** Online Application; Research Statement (~300 words); Description of Summer Research Goals (~300 words)

**Cost:** \$2000 (may be paid for by a combination of BMC MMUF and your summer stipend)

**Description:**

-The centerpiece of the program is an intensive scholarly writing and research methodology course. In addition to working on their individual research projects, students learn to write in disciplinary contexts, cultivate their interpretive skills, and experiment with new digital research tools. Participants who successfully complete the course will receive UCLA course credit.

-Participants have multiple individual and group mentoring sessions each week with the program's graduate student mentors. The mentoring sessions cover topics including applying to graduate school, careers in the professoriate, professionalism, and academic writing and research skills.

-Participants will attend weekly lunches with program staff, as well as regularly scheduled workshops on topics related to writing, research, presentation skills, and applying to graduate school.

-Please note that while participants will receive guidance on contacting faculty, participants will not be paired directly with faculty mentors. Additionally, the program does not include a GRE prep course.

-Five of the 20 program spaces will be reserved for Fellows from west coast region Mellon Mays institutions.

**NOTE FROM WEBSITE: Admission to the program is rolling. Applicants are advised to apply EARLY due to limited space. The program may be full before the deadline. Applications may be considered after the deadline if space is available.**

## **II. Summer Research Opportunities (Outside of MMUF)**

### **1. Institute for the Recruitment of Teachers Summer Workshop (open to both current juniors and seniors)**

**Website:** <https://irt.andover.edu/> // <https://irt.andover.edu/programs/summer-workshop/>

**Program Dates:** July 2017

**Deadline:** April 1, 2017

**Description:**

The Institute for Recruitment of Teachers (IRT) Summer Workshop in Andover, Massachusetts helps students sharpen their writing, speaking, and critical analysis skills in preparation for graduate school. This program features interviews with graduate school deans and waiver of application fees to 35 top graduate schools. The IRT Associates program also assists students with the graduate school application process.

### **2. The African American Literatures and Cultures Institute, University of Texas at San Antonio (open to current juniors)**

**Website:** <http://www.utsa.edu/aalci/>

**Program Dates:** June 4 - June 29

**Deadline:** March 1, 2017

**Application Components:** Online Application; 2 letters of recommendation; essay about your commitment to diversity; essay about your research interests in African American literature

**Cost:** accepted applications receive a \$2000 stipend

**Description:**

The University of Texas at San Antonio African American Literatures and Cultures Institute cultivates students to join the US professoriate by providing research stipends, rigorous mentoring, and innovative academic training. The program responds to the pressing need for diversifying all areas of US higher education — from graduate study to academic research through administrative leadership.

### **III. On Application Materials**

#### **Chicago Application Questions/Prompts and Guidelines**

Research Statement Guidelines:

1. What is your research topic?
2. What questions do you have in relation to this topic?
3. To the best of your ability, into what scholarly conversation(s) do you imagine that your research (writing) will enter? To answer this question, consider the following:  
--Who are some of the key authors/scholars important to your project?  
--Can you trace the lineage of ideas or conversation(s) relevant to your research interests? Is there a broader social context for these ideas? What is it? As distinct from (but not necessarily unrelated to) that social context, what has been the scholarly conversation about these ideas?
4. At this time, what research methods or approaches do you think you will deploy in order to carry out your project?

Intellectual Self-Portrait Guidelines:

Please provide us with what you consider to be your “intellectual self-portrait.” This should be something that begins with the present. It should speak to who you are intellectually, why you want to get a research PhD, and what you hope to do with your PhD (professional aspirations). (Aim for 500 words. We will read more, but learning to communicate meaningfully in as few words as possible is something that you will eventually need to be able to do in graduate school. So, try to give us something that is tautly written.)

OPTIONAL: Creative Commitments: Over the years, in working to prepare students to become researchers, we have found that it is important for us to support you in nourishing your creativity as writers. Please tell us what you can about your creative process. We would also like to know:

1. What inspires you?
2. What kinds of things nourish your creative expression?
3. What are your “writing rituals?”
4. What do you need to do to get into a “zone” of creativity and find “flow”?
5. Do you make things? If so, what do make? Are you a practicing artist of one kind or another?
6. Are there things you would like to explore further that you haven't been able to develop yet?(Often, we discover that MMUF students are musicians, poets, athletes, or visual and performing artists of one kind or another. Or, they are creative in other ways. All scholars are writers. Innovative scholarship requires creativity. Think about how you are creative, and tell us what you think.)

OPTIONAL: Important Learning Experience(s): Recount for us something about an experience(s) that has been formative and influential in how you think about education. In responding to this, you may integrate more than one experience, or you may focus on a single experience. Whatever you decide to include in this essay, "show" it to us. Put us there. (Aim for 500 words, but we will read more. Put us there, in the experience, if you can.)

### **Short Answer Questions**

What do you hope for in a mentoring relationship? (How might these hopes be different from, but perhaps related to what you might establish with someone who serves as a faculty adviser to you?)

Why do you think that you would like to pursue a PhD?

In brief, for your field of study/research interest, why is the University of Chicago appealing to you? Are there particular UChicago faculty members' whose work interests you? If so, please list their names.

Please list a few things that you would like to learn this summer:

(We encourage you to consult with a faculty member at your home institution. Faculty advisers will make valuable suggestions to you about what they would like you to learn. (Please keep in mind that true scholarly research is never completed in just 9 weeks. So, we expect that what you begin with us is something that you will continue, even if the direction or focus of it shifts, when you return to school the following academic year.)

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### **General Tips**

- save whatever answers and documents you submit for these applications (especially for applications that use an online form) -- they can prove useful in the future!
- get feedback from your mentor and/or Mary on your materials, if there's time
- stick to word counts when they're provided -- don't go more than ~100 under or ~100