

Research Fellowships at TPC

Overview

In partnership with the American Philosophical Society Museum, Independence National Historic Park, and the Rosenbach Museum and Library, The Philadelphia Center (TPC) invites students to apply for the 2010-2011 Research Fellowships in the Liberal Arts.

We are pleased to offer tuition remission up to approximately \$12,000 to well-qualified GLCA students looking to explore disciplinary interests at renowned research institutions.

Each of the 13 schools in the consortium can nominate up to three candidates per academic year for each of the three undergraduate fellowships. The TPC Research Fellowships are offered during the Fall 2010 semester; however, if this presents a hardship for a candidate, it may be possible to defer acceptance to Spring 2011.

TPC Offers

Fellowship winners will receive tuition remission to attend The Philadelphia Center during the Fall 2010 semester (up to approximately \$12,000).^{*} Award recipients will be responsible for all travel, housing, and living expenses as well as all book and activity fees. Please refer to our Budget Survey for details.

Students will earn a full semester of credit by working four days a week in their fellowship, living with fellow students in their own apartment, learning through our city-based seminars, and experiencing life in one of the nation's most dynamic cities.

Selection Committee and Eligibility Criteria

The selection committee will be composed of the Fellowship Director, Executive Director, TPC faculty members, and fellowship supervisors from the three partnering organizations. Finalists will be expected to travel to Philadelphia to meet committee members for a formal interview and presentation. Lodging will be provided; however, candidates are responsible for their own travel expenses.

Candidates must meet the following criteria:

- be a junior or senior at a participating GLCA campus during the Fall 2010 semester
- demonstrate academic excellence
- have declared a major in a related field
- require the full semester of academic credit that TPC provides

Timeline

March 1, 2010 • Application Due
April 2010 • Interview Finalists
May 2010 • Notification of Recipients
May 2010 • Home Institution Notification
August 29 to December 15, 2010 • Fall Semester

Application Requirements

Submit the following to your faculty chair or sponsor:

- A 500 word Statement of Intent detailing why the applicant is a good candidate for the organization, what inspires him/her about the field, and what knowledge he or she possesses in relation to the fellowship of choice; demonstrating an interest in a career in museum studies, public history, or literary/museum studies; and providing some examples of this interest through volunteer work, class projects, papers, etc...
- A 1000 word academic writing sample on a topic in the applicant's major field of study.
- A research abstract or outline of the applicant's presentation to the TPC selection committee. The proposal should reflect the student's field of study and clearly state a topic of their interest, but does not necessarily have to demonstrate connections to the fellowship described.
- The completed TPC application (tpc.edu/apply) and any off-campus study requirements that may be mandated by the applicant's campus. Instead of two letters of recommendation, we ask for three letters of endorsement: one each from the departmental chair, a faculty sponsor from any department, and a student sponsor. Letters should comment on the student's academic abilities and should address any unique qualifications the candidate has for the fellowship.

Completed application packets should be forwarded as a group to TPC by the appropriate faculty sponsor no later than **March 1, 2010**. Schools cannot nominate more than three candidates per fellowship.

^{*}Receipt of this award may impact other financial aid the student receives from the home institution. Applicants should check with the Office of Financial Aid to determine how financial aid will be impacted.

Contact Information

Fellowship Director and Faculty Advisor
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Research Fellowships at TPC

American Philosophical Society Museum

Philosophy may not be what you think! When Ben Franklin and his friends decided to establish the American Philosophical Society (APS) (www.apsmuseum.org or www.amphilsoc.org) in 1743, they studied nature and called themselves natural philosophers. Now we'd call them scientists. But the word "philosophical" stuck.

The APS, the oldest learning society in the United States, is home to one of Philadelphia's newest museums, exploring history, science, and art in sophisticated interdisciplinary exhibitions that combine materials from the Society's rich collections with provocative works by contemporary artists. Past exhibitions include *Stuffing Birds*, *Pressing Plants*, *Shaping Knowledge: Natural History in North America, 1730-1860*; *Treasures Revealed: 260 Years of Collecting at the APS*; *The Princess & the Patriot: Ekaterina Dashkova, Benjamin Franklin, and the Age of Enlightenment*; and *UNDAUNTED: Five American Explorers, 1760-2007*. Past artists include Mark Dion, Sue Johnson, Winifred Lutz, and performance artist Brett Keyser.

The Research Fellow will have the opportunity to select two or three projects from a wide variety of potential activities. Potential projects may include: learning about the 2009 exhibition, *Dialogues with Darwin*, and becoming a museum guide; performing curatorial research for *Revolutions! Science and Politics in the Golden Age of French Natural History, 1780-1850*, a future exhibition including decorative arts as well as scientific and historical materials; researching objects in the Museum collections of early American material culture (scientific instruments, patent models, portraits, and decorative arts); helping develop and implement public programming; and coordinating and working with our volunteers on gallery night. The TPC Research Fellow will also be able to attend brown-bag lunch seminars given by APS research fellows and attend an APS members meeting with some of the most distinguished scientists and humanists in the United States.

Applicants must be currently enrolled in an undergraduate program in science or art education; museum studies, art history, history, anthropology, or natural philosophy.

Independence National Historical Park

Independence National Historical Park, a unit of the US Department of Interior's National Park Service, offers an annual public history internship to students participating in The Philadelphia Center program. Specifically, Independence's Cultural Resources Management Division (which directly manages the historic buildings, landscapes, and artifacts that define Independence Park) will oversee one Philadelphia Center intern in a project that directly involves the student in researching and preserving historic resources.

The intern will work with the park's curators, architects, archeologists, and historians to study historical topics related to Independence Park's mission of interpreting the founding of the American republic. This research will require the intern to perform independent research using primary source material related to social, political, economic, and/or cultural history topics relevant to such icons as Independence Hall and the Liberty Bell. This research will be used to document the Park's historic resources and to inform public

programming for the Park's 5.2 million visitors (both actual and virtual) through such mechanisms as museum exhibits, online exhibits, publications, and/or presentations.

The intern will also participate in the implementation of preservation policy by performing regular work with the Park's resources (e.g., documenting museum collections) and by accompanying Park staff to meetings with consultants and/or Park partners involved in specific preservation projects (e.g. conservation of historic buildings). The goal of this internship is to provide a student with field experience in public history as it is performed in an historic site.

Rosenbach Museum and Library

The Rosenbach Museum & Library seeks a Philadelphia Center Research Fellow with experience and interest in English, Continental, or American literature for Fall 2009.

Founded by famed book dealer Dr. A.S.W. Rosenbach and his brother and business partner Philip, the Rosenbach preserves and interprets a diverse collection of rare books, manuscripts, and fine and decorative arts. Among the highlights of the library collection are the first book printed in the United States, the sole surviving copy of the first Poor Richard almanac, Bram Stoker's working notes for *Dracula*, James Joyce's manuscript of *Ulysses*, and the papers and possessions of Modernist poet Marianne Moore, as well as strong collections of Blake, Burns, Carroll, and Conrad, among others. Our mission is to inspire curiosity, inquiry, and creativity by engaging broad audiences in exhibitions, programs, and research based on our remarkable and expanding collections. For more information about the Rosenbach and its holdings, please visit us www.rosenbach.org.

The Philadelphia Center Research Fellow will work with the librarian and other collections department staff in determining a project of mutual benefit to the fellow and the museum. One possible project is conducting research on the notebooks of Marianne Moore, which would entail studying the notebooks, creating a bibliography of published research on the collection, contacting scholars, and producing a detailed finding aid for researchers. Another potential project would involve developing a notebook of 'scripts' on literary topics for house tours, so museum docents could learn more about the authors and works in the collection and could incorporate them into tours. This might also involve giving a continuing education presentation for Rosenbach staff and docents and/or presenting a thematic tour or tours to the public. Another possible project is doing preparatory work for literature-related exhibitions at the Rosenbach; this would be dependent on museum needs. Finally, the Rosenbach is open to developing project ideas based on a fellow's ability and background.

Applicants must be currently enrolled in an undergraduate program in English, literature, or a comparable field.

A Note About the Fellowships

Although TPC fully expects to offer fellowships with the American Philosophical Society Museum, Independence National Historic Park, and the Rosenbach Museum and Library, we cannot absolutely guarantee a fellowship with a specific organization. In the unlikely event that a fellowship partner is unable to accept a student, TPC will make every effort to find a comparable work environment for the fellowship recipient.