MMUF AT RICE

Funded by the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, MMUF at Rice began in 1992. The Mellon Mays Undergraduate Fellows Program (MMUF) at Rice University has three goals. First, it seeks to increase the number of minority students, and others with a demonstrated commitment to eliminating racial disparities, who will pursue PhDs in core fields in the arts and sciences. In doing so, the program aims to reduce over time the serious under-representation on the faculties of individuals from certain minority groups, as well as to address the attendant educational consequences of these disparities. Second, it seeks to nurture these students to be the researchers, teachers, and mentors of the highly diverse college bodies of the future. Third, it seeks to encourage study abroad experiences as part of their research agenda. The core fields are: Anthropology, Art History, Classics, Computer Science, Demography, Earth Sciences, Ecology, English, Ethnomusicology, Foreign Languages, History, Literature, Mathematics, Musicology, Philosophy, Physics, Political Theory, Religion and Sociology. MMUF aims to achieve its mission, therefore, by identifying and supporting students of great promise and helping them to become scholars of the highest distinction.

MMUF at Rice targets students who are most likely to benefit from a close mentoring relationship with a faculty member. Selection will be based on a number of attributes, including but not limited to academic standing and potential, life experiences and interests, commitment to building bridges in multicultural settings, and interest in pursuing graduate education leading to the Ph.D.

Students, who enter MMUF at the end of their sophomore year, can normally expect two years of mentoring and a close working relationship with selected faculty members preferably in their areas of interest. Juniors are eligible to apply as associate fellows. The intent is that such interaction with faculty and other fellows will provide students with additional incentives to enroll in a Ph.D. program in a Mellon-designated field. Normally, fellows will assist their mentors on research, editorial projects, or other initiatives related to their scholarly interests. There will also be opportunities for fellows to attend professional meetings, special seminars, and workshops.

Fellows are responsible for identifying their mentors.

Fellows will receive each year a stipend of $2,000 that, we trust, will render it unnecessary for them to seek employment while they obtain financial support from the MMUF. To continue receiving the stipend, those studying abroad must make special arrangements with their mentors and the Office of the Associate Provost prior to leaving campus. In addition, fellows will be eligible for a summer research stipend of $3,000 to engage in research activities at the end of their sophomore or junior years. Summer research proposals must be endorsed by the fellow’s mentor and submitted to the Office of the Associate Provost for approval no later than the last day of class in the spring semester.

Each fellow who enrolls in a Ph.D. program in a Mellon-eligible field within three years of graduation from Rice can expect repayment of up to $1,250 per year, for up to four years, of their undergraduate student loans. In short, up to $5,000 of their undergraduate loans will be repaid over a four-year period while they are working toward the Ph.D. Those who complete the Ph.D. degree within six years after enrollment in a graduate program will be eligible for an additional payment up to $5,000.

SUBMIT APPLICATION TO: Office of the Associate Provost, MS-3
ATTN: Gloria Bean
313A Lovett Hall, Door D

DEADLINE: February 4, 2008
RICE UNIVERSITY
Mellon Mays Undergraduate Fellows Program
Application 2008

Name ____________________________________________
Last     First    Middle    Maiden

Local Mailing Address __________________________________________________________
Resident      Mailstop
Number/Street _________________________________________________________________
Apt.   City                   State    Zip

Current Phone No. __________________  Cell No. __________________  SSN _____________
Sex_____          Rice ID No. _________________   Email _______________________________

U.S. Citizen: Yes____  No _____  If no, please indicate immigration status. (If you are not a U.S. citizen, you must
be a permanent resident of the U.S. to be eligible.)

Permanent Address:

______________________________________________________________________________
Number/Street  Apt.  City  State  Zip

Permanent Phone No.  ____________________________________________________________

Mellon Supported Areas of Academic Interest: Check your major or intended major

☑ Anthropology
☐ Area Studies _____________
☐ Art History
☐ Classics
☐ Computer Sciences
☐ Demography
☐ Earth Sciences
☐ Ecology
☐ English
☐ Ethnomusicology
☐ Foreign Languages
☐ Geology
☐ History
☐ Literature
☐ Mathematics
☐ Musicology
☐ Philosophy
☐ Physics
☐ Political Theory
☐ Religion
☐ Sociology

Current classification: (Circle one)   Sophomore       Junior
Juniors are eligible to apply as one year associate fellows but are not eligible for the loan repayment program.

If you have, or intend to have, a double major please explain

______________________________________________________________________________

PLEASE ATTACH THE FOLLOWING DOCUMENTS TO YOUR APPLICATION
☐ PERSONAL STATEMENT: It should summarize your research interest, career goals and reasons for
interest in MMUF.
☐ RESUME: It should include your accomplishments, activities, and work experience.
☐ TRANSCRIPT: It can be an unofficial document from the Registrar’s Office, which should include your
classification and GPA.
☐ FACULTY RECOMMENDATION: It can be submitted with your application in a sealed envelope, or as
an email attachment directly from the faculty member.

Signature                   Date

DEADLINE:  February 4, 2008