



EXPLORING  
RESEARCH AND  
FELLOWSHIP  
OPPORTUNITIES FOR  
HISTORY MAJORS

Spring 2023



# A quick introduction to URF resources!

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- Undergraduate Research and Fellowships ([urf.Columbia.edu](http://urf.Columbia.edu))
  - Brainstorm ideas and bring questions
  - Receive feedback on draft materials (essays, resumes, etc.)
  - Get information about how to find an opportunity, and answers to questions about opportunities
  - Answer or resources to answer other questions you might have (no matter how big or small)!
  - Receive our weekly newsletter with updates, announcements, upcoming deadlines, etc. (e-mail [ugrad-urf@Columbia.edu](mailto:ugrad-urf@Columbia.edu))
  - Come to URF [events](#)! Meet foundation representatives; come to a roundtable discussion, an info session, a workshop.
    - Research 101, Feb.15, 4-5pm (on zoom)
    - Fulbright Week, March 27-31 (on zoom)
    - Rhodes and Marshall Scholars, Columbia Alumni Panel: April 5, 5-6pm (on zoom)
    - Meet a Knight-Hennessy Representative! April 19, 5-6pm, 202 Hamilton
- How to connect with URF:
  - Make a 30 minute appointment with a URF advisor (in person upon request; otherwise by zoom)
  - Come to “walk-in” zoom hours, daily, 12-1 for advice or a shorter conversation with a URF advisor
  - E-mail materials to [ugrad-urf@Columbia.edu](mailto:ugrad-urf@Columbia.edu) for electronic advising
  - Rose Fellows Near Peer [Advising](#) and [Blog](#)
    - [“Should I Go To Grad School? Questions and Thoughts to Consider”](#)
    - [“Applying to Rhodes: A Conversation with Two Rhodes Finalists”](#)
    - [“The Dreaded Cold-Email”](#)
- Check out our website!
  - [Finding a Fellowship or Research Opportunity](#)
    - Our [database](#)
    - [Opportunities listed by department](#)
    - [Centers and Institutes](#)
    - Quick guides: [academic year fellowships](#) and [summer fellowships](#)

# Identifying Research Opportunities

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- Summer Research Opportunities
  - (for rising sophomores, juniors, seniors)
  
- Postgraduate Research Opportunities
  - (for juniors, seniors, alumni)

## Independent research:

- The applicant comes up with the who, what, where, why, when of the project;
- The applicant identifies a faculty mentor, PI, affiliate, or supervisor.

## Cohort based programs

## Guided research:

- Summer or postgraduate degree course;
- Contribute to a larger research project, designed and overseen by an expert;
- Fieldwork
- Study abroad

# Guided Research (summer+)

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*Advanced learning based in experiential, intensive, and specialized training intended to help the fellow improve their professional knowledge, competence, skills, and effectiveness within the given field. Group-based fellowship programs and learning experiences.*

*Examples of Faculty Sponsored Research Projects with Columbia Faculty:*

- The Ambedkur Initiative (History and Human Rights)
- Anti-mafia Investigative Journalists in Sicily (Anthropology)
- Partisan Polarization and “Culture War” Issues (Political Science)
- Women in World Film History (Film)
- The American Diva Project (CSER)

- Fisher Civil Liberties Fellowship (April 2023)
- de Bary Summer Language Fellowship (Mar.2023)
- Laidlaw Undergraduate Research & Leadership Scholars (Mar.2023) (rising sophomores only!) (faculty sponsored projects or independent research proposals are accepted!)
- Humanities Research Scholars Program (Mar.2023) (rising juniors only!)
- Mellon Mays Undergraduate Fellowship (March 2022) (rising juniors only)

# Independent Research (summer+)

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*Self-designed / faculty guided research experience, project, and practice that will culminate in the fellow's own contribution to the field, discipline, or other supported conclusion in the form of a creative effort.*

- URF Summer Research Fellowships (March 2023) ([faculty sponsored projects](#) or independent research proposals are accepted!)
- Rose Research Ambassadors/Near Peer Advisors (May 2023)
- Institute for Religion, Culture, and Public Life Undergraduate Research Fellowship (March 2023)
- Weatherhead Training Grant (March 2023)
- Center for Career Education Summer Funding (April 2023)
- Udall Scholarship (sophomore and juniors) (March 2023)

*Looking ahead:*

Senior Thesis Funding (Dec.2023)

# Postgraduate Opportunities and other funding resources

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## Independent Research

- Henry Evans Traveling Fellowship\* (March 2023)

## Research Awards!

Carl B. Boyer Memorial Prize in the History of Science (Apr.2023)

Shanley & Chamberlain Essay Prize (best undergraduate essay in the areas of the American presidency, Congress or public policy) (Apr.2023)

## Guided Research

- Carman Fellowship (March 2023)
- Holthusen Schindler (April 2023)
  
- Samvid Scholars (April 2023)

# Postgraduate Opportunities – looking ahead!

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## Independent Research

- Fulbright grant for independent research (Sept.2024)
- DAAD One Year Research Grant in Germany (Nov.2024)

## Guided Research (Juniors only)!

- Truman Scholarship (Jan. 2024) *Juniors only!*
- Beinecke Scholarship (Jan.2024) *Juniors only!*

## Guided Research—looking ahead

- Kellett and Doctorow Fellowships (Dec.2023)
- Rhodes, Marshall, Mitchell Fellowships (Aug.2023)
- Fulbright Scholars Program (Sept.2023)
- Schwarzman Scholarship (Sept.2023)
- McCall MacBain Fellowship @ McGill (Sept.2023)
- Knight-Hennessy Scholars @ Stanford (Oct.2023)
- NSF GRFP (sociology or public policy) (Oct.2023)
- Soros Fellowship for New Americans (Oct.2023)
- Michel David-Weill Fellowship @ Sciences Po, Paris (Nov.2023)
- St. Andrew's Society Scholarship for Graduate Study in Scotland (Nov.2023)
- Yenching Academy Scholars at Peking University, Beijing (Nov.2023)
- James C. Gaither Junior Fellows Program for International Peace @ Carnegie Endowment for Int'l Peace think tank (Dec.2023)

# What are some of the *myths* behind pursuing research?

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- I've never done research before—it's too late for me to start!
- I'm curious about research, but I don't have a project. Maybe I'm not cut out for research.
- I don't have a faculty mentor lined up and I don't know anyone who will supervise me. I'm ineligible for this application.
- I don't have a 4.00 GPA; maybe I'm not qualified.
- I want to switch fields of study. I can't conduct research in a field when I know nothing/have had little exposure...

# How do I write about my research?

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- How might you narrate the story of the existing conversation in your field?
- How might you contribute to this conversation (or move it forward)?
- What are the general, overarching ideas, goals, reasons for pursuing this research? (think short- and longer-term)
- Why is this topic important? (both to yourself and to the wider field)
- If you are proposing an independent research project, identify as much of the logistics as possible that are necessary for carrying out a successful project
  - Who? What? Where? When? Why? How?
- What can you gain academically and/or professionally? What are you contributing to the field through your project?
- What past experiences/research have prepared you to take on this research?

Seek feedback on your research proposal from someone in your field (if you are required to secure an affiliate or research supervisor, this individual is a great person to start with!)

## Our database is one resource! There are others!

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- ProFellow.com
- Scholars for Development:  
<https://www.scholars4dev.com/>
- Predoc (<https://www.predoc.org/>)
- Pivot (<https://pivot-proquest-com.ezproxy.cul.columbia.edu/dashboard>)--this one requires your UNI!
- Jobs.ac.uk
- <https://study-uk.britishcouncil.org/scholarships-funding>