

Mellon / ACLS Early Career Fellowship Program

Recent Doctoral Recipients Fellowship

The Mellon/ACLS Recent Doctoral Recipients Fellowship program supports 25 scholars pursuing postdoctoral research in the humanities and related social sciences, following their graduation from American doctoral programs. In this program, Fellows may wish to be associated with a humanities research center or library, either in the US or overseas. Through the Consortium of Humanities Centers and Institutes (CHCI) and Council of American Overseas Research Centers (CAORC), ACLS is inviting research centers and libraries to participate in this program by offering to host RDR Fellows during their Fellowship year.

ACLS will work together with CHCI and CAORC on placement of RDR Fellows with appropriate partners among participating research centers. This arrangement will be pertinent for some RDR Fellows who find an academic position but of special interest to those who do not get academic posts right out of graduate school. We believe this latter group will represent a non-negligible number, given the current state of the job market. Since the total number of RDR Fellows each year is set at 25, we anticipate placing roughly a dozen Fellows each year.

Such a placement arrangement is attractive if there are Fellows whom a research center or library would like to invite and if such Fellows are interested in working in a one-year residency at that center or library. In this arrangement the Fellows bring their own funding, as their stipends are paid by ACLS (though there is no funding under this program available for the centers). Visiting Fellows would be expected to participate as active members of the research community and give a presentation of their research in a suitable form. *This is a research-only position and no teaching is permitted under the Fellowship.*

Ordinarily, a Humanities Centers would provide the following to RDR Fellows: an office; internet and phone access; library access; opportunities to participate in speaker series, seminars/workshops, and other Center activities (as appropriate and available); and access to medical insurance, wherever possible, for Fellow and family.

ACLS has created a clearinghouse to facilitate placement of Fellows at participating CHCI and CAORC centers. In this process, applicants to the RDR program will indicate up to five choices of research centers or libraries they would be interested in and willing to go to, for a residency during the tenure of the Fellowship. Each applicant will provide a brief account as to why he or she is choosing a given center; we will enter this data into their dossiers. After Fellows are selected, ACLS will invite the CHCI and CAORC member institutions indicated by the Fellows to enter a secure area of our website and download dossiers for the Fellows in question. Once a center has indicated up to two fellows it is willing to host, ACLS will notify Fellows that an offer to host them was made by the center or library in question. If for any reason arrangements could not be finalized, we will try to facilitate secondary choices.

Further information on this Fellowship program is available from the attached program description and <http://www.acls.org/ecfguide.htm>. (Scroll down to “Recent Doctoral Recipients Fellowships”.) If your center or library would like to participate in this program, please contact Grant Samuelson at grant.samuelson@duke.edu (for CHCI institutions) or Mary Ellen Lane at lane.maryellen@caorc.org (for CAORC institutions). If you have any questions about the Fellowship program, please contact Saul Fisher at sfisher@acls.org.

Schedule for the present competition year

Competition closes	December 12, 2007
Deadline for Centers agreeing to participate and providing brief description to CHCI or CAORC ¹	December 12, 2007
Applicants designate centers for possible residencies	January 2008
Fellows selected	mid-March 2008
Centers review Fellows’ dossiers and indicate Fellows to invite:	beginning of April 2008
Fellows invited to Centers	mid-April 2008
Decisions by Fellows due	late April 2008

1. In subsequent competition years, centers will indicate their participation in mid-June, preceding the opening of the annual competition.