

The Andrew W. Mellon Summer Academy and
Undergraduate Curatorial Fellowship Program at
LACMA
Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

Eligibility

Who is eligible to apply?

- 1) Individuals from historically underrepresented groups in the curatorial field and support the goal of promoting inclusive, pluralistic museums;
- 2) Undergraduates currently enrolled at a university, college or community college;
- 3) Undergraduates who, if selected as a fellow, can commit to two years in the program with graduation planned for May 2022 or a later date. (Typically a current freshman or sophomore and/or any student with two years of undergraduate study remaining); and
- 4) Individuals who are eligible to work in the United States.

What other qualifications are preferred?

- 1) Students can demonstrate an interest in art, art history or the museum field.
- 2) Students are enrolled at a university, college or community college located near a partner museum. Partner museums are: the Art Institute of Chicago; the High Museum of Art, Atlanta; the Los Angeles County Museum of Art; the Museum of Fine Arts, Houston; the Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art, Kansas City; and the Philadelphia Museum of Art. **Preference will be given to students enrolled at an academic institution located near a partner museum.**
- 3) Students are planning to pursue a graduate degree in art history or museum-related field.

Summer Academy

What is the Summer Academy?

The Summer Academy is a one-week intensive program consisting of workshops, tours, field trips and networking events with museum professionals. Summer Academies are designed to provide a rich experience in the museum environment and expose participants to career options related to art and art history.

How long is the Summer Academy?

Summer Academy participants must spend one week at their host museum.

Is there financial support to participate in the Summer Academy?

Yes. Summer Academy participants will receive a stipend for the week. If students do not live in the location of the Summer Academy host museum, a modest travel stipend may be provided. Housing arrangements will also be made for participants at a university campus close to the museum.

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How many students will be selected for each Summer Academy?

15 students will be selected for each Summer Academy at each museum.

When will students be notified if they have been selected to participate in a Summer Academy?

Students will be notified in early May, for LACMA's mid-June Summer Academy. Notification dates may vary at partner museums.

Should I attend a college close to one of the partner museums?

Yes, this is preferred. Participants in the Summer Academy who are selected for the Fellowship program will be paired with a curatorial mentor at the host museum with whom they will work on projects and with whom they will meet regularly during the academic year and summer.

The Mellon Undergraduate Curatorial Fellowship Program

What is the Fellowship Program?

The Mellon Undergraduate Curatorial Fellowship Program is a multi-year program providing fellows with hands-on experience inside a museum setting, assisting curators and staff on exhibitions, collections and programs.

How long is the Fellowship Program?

Fellows can expect to spend two years at their host museum. During the academic year, fellows must meet with their mentors and with a local program coordinator on a regular basis. In the summer, fellows will have 10-week full-time fellowships. Fellows will also participate in a yearly national convening at one of the partner museums rotating annually, and will engage their counterparts across the country in an online community platform.

Is there financial support to participate in the fellowship program?

Yes. Once selected as a fellow, students will receive \$4,000 during the academic school year to alleviate financial pressures which might otherwise require a student to pursue part-time work or work study arrangements. In addition, fellows will receive \$6,000 during the summer fellowships. A housing and travel stipend may also be provided to fellows during the summer.

How are fellows selected?

Students must first participate in a Summer Academy. After completing the Summer Academy, participants interested in becoming fellows will submit supplemental materials and have an interview for consideration for the Fellowship Program.

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How many students will be selected to be fellows?

Two Fellows will be selected following each Summer Academy.

Do I apply to the Summer Academy and to the Fellowship program separately?

No. Students must apply and participate in the Summer Academy in order to be considered for the Fellowship program.

If I applied to a Summer Academy and was not selected to participate in it, can I re-apply to the next Summer Academy?

Yes, you may reapply to the program if you still meet all of the eligibility requirements.

Why is it preferred that I plan to earn a graduate degree in art history or museum-related field?

Because a graduate degree is required to advance in the curatorial and museum field.