

# Fellowships for the Social Sciences

*Exploring opportunities, resources, and working with URF!*

## *A few programs to consider!*

### **Undergraduate (First, Sophomore, Junior)**

- Critical Language Scholarship
- Gilman Scholarship
- De Bary Language
- Weatherhead East Asian Studies
- CC Rose Research Ambassadorship
- CCE Summer Funding
- Davis Projects for Peace
- ThinkSwiss Research
- Udall Scholarship
- Humanity in Action
- Truman Scholarship
- Beinecke Scholarship
- CU Business School Summer Research Internships
- Center for the Study of Congress & the Presidency Fellows Program
- Guggenheim Internships in Criminal Justice

*View these and more at [urf.columbia.edu](http://urf.columbia.edu)!*



### **Postgraduate (Rising/recently graduated seniors, and early alums)**

- Rhodes Scholarship
- Marshall Scholarship
- Mitchell Scholarship
- Fulbright US Student Program
- Knight-Hennessy Scholars at Stanford
- Gates-Cambridge Scholars
- NSF- Graduate Research Fellowship (yes - social sciences are eligible!)
- DAAD Fellowships in Germany
- MacBain - McCall at McGill University
- Schwarzman Scholars
- Luce Scholars Program
- Princeton in Programs (Asia, Africa, Latin America)
- American-Scandinavian Foundation
- St. Andrew's Society of New York
- Yenching Academy
- Rangel, Pickering, Payne Fellowships in Foreign Affairs
- FAO Schwarz Leadership
- Congress Bundestag Fellowship for Young Professionals

## **A Brief Overview**

There are exciting social science focused fellowship opportunities available to you at every stage of your Columbia experience and beyond graduation. Fellowships are fully-funded, short-term opportunities that offer the chance to develop your academic and professional interests beyond the classroom. They can help you study abroad, get involved in public service, fund a postgraduate degree, pursue an internship, engage in a community building initiative, or research a topic of interest.

There are many benefits to fellowships beyond the funding! From joining a network of likeminded individuals committed to similar goals as you, to adding a recognized, prestigious name to your resume, to exploring a new topic, field, project of interest without a long-term contract, fellowships offer a unique, exciting pathway in enriching your academic and professional trajectory!

 COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY

**Undergraduate Research  
& Fellowships**

# While individual application processes are unique, some common components include

- **Research Proposal:** Your statement should give background (assume an educated, but not expert, audience); it should discuss the problem, gap, or issue that you seek to address; it should discuss how you will carry out this project (i.e. methodological approach). You should point to skills or experiences that suggest why you are the perfect candidate to take on this project. Finally, you'll want to talk about the stakes of your work (why this specific topic is important, what contributions are you making to the broader field).
- **Personal Statement.** This essay contains your personal narrative. How did you become interested in your field? What motivates you, and how has that motivation expressed itself, both inside and outside of the classroom? How does your research proposal connect with your longer term professional/academic goals? There are details that might work in both essays, and that's ok! The key is not to repeat information (which may send the message that you are running out of things to say, which we know isn't the case!).
- **Letter of Affiliation:** Typically comes from someone you don't know, who has agreed to supervise your research for the duration of the fellowship period. You can draw up a list of the people at your proposed institution whose work looks exciting to you and reach out to them; you should also speak with faculty mentors at Columbia. It's a small world, they will likely have wonderful suggestions!
- **Letter(s) of recommendation:** Ask the faculty, scholars, experts in your field who know you best; these letter writers serve as "expert witnesses," confirming your talents and your future success/engagement in the field. Maturity and commitment to community are also great topics for your letter writers to consider in their comments about you.
- **Transcripts:** You will need to submit a complete collegiate academic record (this includes a Columbia transcript + transcripts from all study abroad, transfer credits, etc.)
- **Resume:** Whether uploading a resume or copying/pasting your professional experiences, achievements, community engagement into a portal, fellowships typically ask for a list of activities as they are curious how you choose to spend your precious free time - inside and outside of the classroom! Unless otherwise stated, if you are uploading a resume, fellowships generally welcome a second page - so think expansively about your academic, professional, community engagements, activities, achievements. CCE has great resume samples if you need help with formatting!

## Further Resources & Questions Answered

Fellowship applications are not difficult -but they can contain many moving pieces! Take advantage of these resources throughout the application process to ensure you've put your best foot forward:

- Questions about the fellowship opportunity, application process, or hoping to receive a few pro-tips? Email URF Advisors ([ugrad-urf@columbia.edu](mailto:ugrad-urf@columbia.edu)) or schedule an advising appointment (<https://urf.columbia.edu/urf/about/advising>)
- Connect with faculty mentors to chat about your proposed research topic, research interests, and fellowship, research, or graduate programs of interest;
- Seek feedback on your essays from URF Advisors, the Writing Center, Faculty (particularly in the field you are applying to!), Recommenders, Graduate Students, TA's, Postdoc's, Family/friends (for example, does your personal statement sound like you?)
- Connect with current/past Columbia awardees who participated in or applied to programs of interest;
- Attend URF webinars throughout the academic year and summer, it's a great opportunity to learn more, workshop essays, and support your peers in their fellowship endeavors!
  - View the upcoming URF seminar schedule here:  
<https://urf.columbia.edu/urf/about/events>
- Review the URF database for fellowships of interest at:  
<https://urf.columbia.edu/opportunity/search>



**Questions? Contact URF at  
[ugrad-urf@columbia.edu](mailto:ugrad-urf@columbia.edu)**