

2021 Appel Fellowship

A Fellowship Opportunity for First-Year Students

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION & APPLICATION INSTRUCTIONS

Applications are due Monday, March 1 at 12:00pm PT (noon)

The Appel Fellowship provides first-year students up to \$3500 for domestic projects and up to \$5000 for international projects to support purposeful, independent experiences that culminate in a meaningful and substantial writing project. This fellowship is meant to enhance the first-year experience by encouraging students to engage in independent writing projects that have the potential to be life-transforming. The ultimate goals of the Appel fellowship are to give students an opportunity to experience writing in a way that may shape the course of their lives in new and exciting ways and to encourage students to share these experiences with others by crafting a thoughtful written project.

Fellows should focus their efforts upon demonstrating to others the importance of writing within a liberal arts context; Appel Fellows are, therefore, encouraged to use writing as a tool for exploration and personal growth. Their writing projects should showcase how writing has enabled them to break through barriers, test their boundaries, and gain a deeper perspective on themselves and their place in the world. Some examples of Appel experiences may include, but are not limited to:

- Conceiving an original writing project (personal essays, interviews, blog or vlog posts, fiction, poetry, screenplay, journalistic writing, podcast, documentary film, etc.), executing, and then sharing that project;
- Writing or editing for an online or print journal or newspaper;
- Pursuing independent study that culminates in a substantial writing project;
- Organizing a service-based writing project with an NGO, non-profit organization, school district, or other community-based institution;
- Exploring an area of interest outside of the fellow's major and then writing about insights generated by the experience;
- Using the act of writing in any number of creative ways to demonstrate personal growth.

The Appel experience must take place during the summer between the student's first and second years. During this time, fellows are encouraged to explore their unique interests irrespective of major preference.

Eligibility/Requirements

Appel Fellows must demonstrate that they will benefit from exposure to experiences that feature writing and communication skills and they must also meet the following requirements:

- ❑ Applicants must be current, first-year students who are enrolled in classes during spring 2021 and who will be enrolled at CMC during the fall semester 2021 (i.e., not taking a leave/withdrawing during either semester).
- ❑ Applicants should include the name of a faculty member who has agreed to serve as an Appel fellowship advisor in their application essay.
 - Students must share the [faculty advisor guide](#) with their advisors.
 - Students are encouraged to keep on file an email or other form of written confirmation from their faculty advisor that they agree to serve in this capacity.
- ❑ Applicants must have a minimum, cumulative GPA of 7.5 and be in good standing with the College as verified by the Dean of Students Office. Students whose GPA falls below this threshold should contact Garineh Kouredjian (GKouredjian@cmc.edu) to request an exception.
- ❑ Applicants who propose to travel outside of the US must meet the requirements of CMC's travel policy and submit the requisite forms for travel insurance and host country approval. Please review our [campus travel policy](#) before submitting your application (<https://www.cmc.edu/career-services/sie-program>) .
- ❑ Selected fellows must commit to producing the equivalent of 8 weeks or 200 hours worth of work, culminating in a writing-related project that they will submit to their faculty advisors by the designated deadline. Those who do not submit their projects by the deadline may be required to

return all or part of their award. In addition, they will not be eligible for transcript notation and will not receive public acknowledgement.

Internship Registration

Appel Fellows **are not eligible** to enroll in the CMC internship credit (INT 198) or the transcript notation (INT 98) courses.

Selection Criteria:

The selection committee will evaluate the following, among other considerations, before making final selections:

- Expression of how the project will contribute to the candidate's ongoing relationship to writing.
- Degree of intellectual depth involved in the proposed project.
- Extent of creativity involved in the proposed project.
- Potential of the experience, based on the applicant's background and the proposal's scope, to be transformative.
- Clarity of project goals and feasibility of travel plans (when applicable).

Application Materials:

The materials below must be submitted through Handshake (search for "Appel Fellowship"). Materials should not be submitted in hardcopy or via email. **The application portal will open February 1, 2021 and your application will be due March 1, 2021.**

- Resume**
- Identify faculty advisor in application essay**
- Unofficial Transcript**
- Detailed budget**
- Appel Essay Question** (Applicants are encouraged to review their essay with a CWPD consultant before submitting their application.)

Required responses:

Answer the following in a SINGLE, well thought out essay. Ideally, your essay will grapple in some way with each of the questions below; your essay should present a compelling, polished, and well-organized case for why your project deserves support. Your response should be no longer than 1000 words in length.

1. Please describe your vision for your writing project: What do you hope to accomplish by undertaking this project? How will you effectively execute your project?
2. Why are you called to engage in this kind of sustained writing project?
3. Describe your relationship to writing: what has writing meant to you thus far and what would you like to do next as a writer? How is writing related to your personal and/or professional aspirations?
4. What aspect of your proposal promises to be life altering and deserving of special recognition?
5. **Opportunities to travel may be severely curtailed as a result of the pandemic.** If applicable, share with us your plans for local travel (within your city or state) or domestic travel (within the U.S.) and describe how these plans relate to your project goals and will contribute to the transformative nature of your experience.

Please include the following information after you conclude your essay:

1. What is your current address (city, state, country)?
2. If you are an international student, are you a citizen or resident of the country you plan to visit?

Optional Response:

Please note that the international travel component of the Appel fellowship is unlikely during summer 2021; however, should CMC's travel policy change before then, it is possible that Appel fellows may have an opportunity to travel to some international locations before the end of the fellowship year (August 1, 2022). If you want to include an alternate travel plan – *which would take effect only if CMC travel policies change dramatically* - you may submit a response to the following question (100 words maximum):

6. If CMC's policy for international travel changes you may have an opportunity to pursue your Appel project outside of the United States (or outside of your country of residence). Share with us your prospective plans for international travel and describe how these plans relate to your project goals and will contribute to the transformative nature of your experience.

Remember: the CMC travel policy may not allow for international travel; your response to this question will only be relevant should the travel policy and associated requirements change and allow you to undertake funded international travel.

Note: Applications will not be reviewed until all of the above materials have been submitted to Handshake.