2027 Appel Fellowship
A Fellowship Opportunity for First-Year Students
PROGRAM DESCRIPTION & APPLICATION INSTRUCTIONS
Applications are due Tuesday, February 9 at 12:00 pm PT (noon)

The Appel Fellowship provides first-year students up to $5000 for projects (with travel covered up to an additional $1700) 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. Appel writing projects must be done without the use of AI. Some examples of Appel experiences may include, but are not limited to:

- Conceiving an original writing project (personal essays, interviews, blog posts, fiction, poetry, screenplay, journalistic writing, zine, podcast, documentary film, etc.), executing, and then sharing that project;
- 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. **Appel Fellows cannot accept or combine any other forms of funding from CMC/SIE during the fellowship period. This includes Scholar funds, SRP, Institute & Center partnered internships and CMC sponsored programs.** (Students on Financial Aid, please see here for information on the KOF Summer Savings grant, which can be used alongside Appel.)

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 at CMC during the Spring 2027 and Fall 2027 semesters (i.e., not taking a leave/withdrawing during either semester).
- ❑ Applicants must be able to provide the name of a faculty member with whom they have discussed the project, and who has agreed to serve as an Appel fellowship advisor. Faculty advisors must be continuing CMC teaching faculty members; unfortunately, other 5C faculty as well as short-term visiting faculty cannot serve in this role.
    - Students should share the faculty advisor guide with potential advisors.
    - Students should obtain an email confirmation from their proposed faculty advisor that they agree to serve in this capacity.
- ❑ Applicants must have a minimum, cumulative GPA of 2.5 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 of their award.
- Selected fellows must be willing to participate in some Appel-related programming in Spring 2027 (for ex. workshops and Q&A sessions with working writers), to attend the pre-departure orientation in Spring 2027 and the debrief session in Fall 2027, and to participate in some way in sharing their work or speaking about their experiences as a Fellow during the 2027-28 academic year (for ex. a panel, info session, and/or the Appel showcase event at the Ath)

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 and originality 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 January 19, 2027 and applications will be due February 9, 2027 by noon PT.**

- **Resume**
- **Written confirmation of faculty member's willingness to advise** (a screenshot of a brief email confirmation from the faculty member will do)
- **Unofficial Transcript**
- **Detailed budget** (Please estimate as best you can all the expenses you expect to incur as part of the project; please clearly separate travel from other expenses in your budget. Please do NOT submit a budget via a google spreadsheet; if you use google sheets, please download a copy to include in your application.)
- **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 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. Please do not use AI to compose or edit your essay; we want to see your own writing, in your own voice. Your response should be no longer than 1000 words.

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. Share with us your plans for travelling internationally (outside of your home country and/or the U.S.) or domestically (within your home country and/or the U.S.) and describe how these plans

relate to your project goals and will contribute to the transformative nature of your experience. Your travel plans should be practical in scale and the locations you identify should clearly connect to your writing project goals.

Note on international travel:

Please note that the international travel component of the Appel fellowship is subject to change based on state and national travel advisories and CMC's funded travel policy.

A defined list of approved **international** countries can be found here. These approved countries are approved for SIE funding based on data provided by Crisis24 which tracks risk levels including crime, security services, civil unrest, and geopolitical activities. These approved countries are subject to change, so please refer back to this link before finalizing your travel plans.

International flights: The college must book all international flights through our travel agent.

Passports: Applicants applying to do a project that requires international travel are strongly encouraged to make sure they have a valid passport, and that it will not expire for at least six months after the start of travel. Many countries require this, and some airlines will not let you board an international flight without six months on your passport. We advise applicants pursuing international travel to get a jump start on passport applications and renewals, because the turnaround can currently take months.

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?

Please note: **Applications will not be reviewed until all materials have been submitted to Handshake.**
Decisions will go out approx. 2 weeks after the deadline.