Apple Fellowship
Frequently Asked Questions

The Project

What is the selection committee looking for in an Appel Fellowship project?

- A project that you care about–why are you the person to do this, and why now?
- A clear articulation of what you will be writing–poems, essays, a zine? Let us know.
- A clear and achievable travel itinerary.
- A reasonable and well-researched budget.
- A commitment to developing a writing process during the summer that does not include AI writing assistance—this fellowship is a chance to learn who YOU are as a writer.

I have some ideas but I'm not sure how to best shape them into a project. Can I get help?
Yes! Applicants should come to the info and help sessions that we offer in late fall and early spring (check your email or the "Events" page on the Appel Website for updates); at these sessions you can get all your questions answered, hear from former Appel Scholars, and (in the spring sessions) work 1-1 with CWPD Consultants to fine-tune your essay. You can also make a CWPD Consultation appointment at any time to get support. Finally, you may want to check in with your potential faculty advisor, who will often have helpful suggestions and may even be willing to look at your essay.

The Budget

How do I know how much things will cost?
You can't know for sure, but do your best with online research. The budget is an estimate, but we also want to see that you've attempted to figure out what your real costs would look like.

What should my budget look like?
Any clear, concise format is fine (but please don't send us a link to a google doc or 20 pages of screenshots). Please separate travel costs from other costs, and list your estimated costs for housing, food, supplies, and day-to-day expenses in as much detail as you're able.

I'm having trouble finding affordable places to stay as I plan my budget. Any tips?
Look into hostels, homestays, and Airbnb-type rentals. Not only can these save you money, they will offer you things hotels often do not have–for example, kitchen access to cook for yourself, inexpensive food with a family, and above all, more opportunities to meet fellow travelers and locals. Many Appel Scholars report that staying in a hostel or with a family was the best part of their trip.

What if things change later on?
That's okay! This budget is just an estimate.

The Faculty Advisor

How do I find a faculty advisor for my project?
If you have a faculty member you've worked well with before, for example in an FHS or FWS class, they might make a good advisor, even if your topic isn't right in their specialization. You could also look for a faculty member with expertise related to a place, theme, language, or writing style that would be helpful for your project.

What does the faculty advisor do?
The faculty advisor's main role is to help you shape a writing project, to set a schedule with you for accountability and support over the summer (and to check in with you according to that schedule), and to give you some feedback on your writing, usually towards the end of your project. Some advisors also do other things: suggest materials to read while preparing for your project, help you shape the direction of your project, or provide you with contacts or advice about traveling in a place they're familiar with. But the most important thing they do is advise your writing.

What's the best way to ask someone to be my advisor?
It's a good idea to email a potential advisor (before you apply) with a 1-2 sentence explanation of your project idea and to ask for a brief meeting to discuss it. If they agree to advise, please ask them to send you a brief email confirming that they're willing; you'll include that email in your application.

Can I have a non-CMC 5C faculty member, a visiting CMC faculty member, or a CMC sports coach as my Faculty Advisor?
Your advisor must be a CMC faculty member who teaches courses that include writing assignments of some kind. Non-tenured or visiting CMC faculty members are fine as long as they will be continuing in the fall semester after your Appel summer (you will be checking in with them late in the summer or early in the fall, so you want them to still be available at that time). Unfortunately, non-teaching staff or faculty, non-CMC 5C faculty, and one-semester-only visiting faculty cannot serve as advisors.

Travel Logistics
I really want to go to a country not on the list of approved travel destinations. Can I plan to travel to that place?
Exceptions for countries not on the list of approved travel destinations can be made only at the discretion of SIE; however, those exceptions are sometimes made.

How soon should I start working on a passport and/or visa application, given that I don't know if I will get the fellowship?
It's a good idea to make sure right away that you have a passport that will be valid for 6 months after your potential travel dates. Passports can sometimes take a while to process, and should you receive a fellowship, you risk losing precious travel time if you don't have the passport in hand. That 6-month buffer is important; some airlines/countries will not allow you to board

international flights without it. Visas are a faster turnaround and we do not recommend spending time or money on a visa before you are awarded a fellowship.

I have someone who I would like to travel with if I get the fellowship. Is that okay?
The fellowship encourages independent travel experiences, but we also recognize that sometimes a traveling partner can be helpful for safety or for research purposes. If you have a friend or family member you want to travel with, you are welcome to do so, but your Appel funds cannot cover that person's expenses–they are just for you.

Time and Commitment
How much time should I plan on devoting to the Appel fellowship during the summer?
From the application guidelines:

> "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."

The Appel Fellowship offers significant funding and support and is therefore intended to be your main activity during the Fellowship summer. Appel Fellows might not be traveling for all 8 weeks (most are not), but during non-travel times they should be reading, writing, preparing, or completing projects. If that's not something you are ready to do, you should look at SIE's other summer experience grant options—do check in with them directly for recommendations.

Can I take another internship or fellowship concurrently with Appel?
No, you cannot take any other SIE grant during the summer that you hold the Appel. This paragraph from the application states this explicitly:

> "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.)"

Is there anything I'll need to do before the summer?
During the spring semester, Appel Fellows will need to do several things:

- Attend our orientation meeting.
- Submit a secondary application form to SIE.
- Provide us with a photo and brief description of your project.
- Make all travel reservations efficiently, with SIE guidance.
- Meet with your faculty advisor to refine your project and make a plan for spring and summer check-ins.
- Attend at least two writing and travel workshops offered for Appels.
- Submit a revised budget, itinerary, and plan for completing your project.

- Optional but recommended: attend 1-2 social events for new and past Appels to get to know each other.

Is there anything I'll need to do after the summer?
During the fall semester following your Appel summer, you will need to do the following:

- Turn in the final version of your project early in the fall semester.
- Submit a revised brief description of what you did.
- Submit at least 3 high-res photographs from your travels.
- Attend a required "debrief session" in which the cohort shares experiences, challenges and tips from the summer.

We also hope that you will be willing to share your project and your experiences with the CMC community. Ideally we would share your project or some part of it on the Appel website, and you would also participate in an on-campus activity or two, for example a panel during the fall semester; an info session for prospective applicants in December or January; and/or our annual Ath celebration at the start of the spring semester. We also hold periodic lunch events to which all past and present Appels on campus are invited. These are a fun way to reconnect and to pass on your knowledge to future cohorts.

Application Timeline
When will application decisions go out?
The selection committee will endeavor to read all applications and select the new cohort in the two weeks after the application window closes. All applicants will be notified of the decisions by email.