

Appel Fellowship: Faculty Advisor Guide (2025 cohort)

Thank you for agreeing to serve as a faculty advisor to an Appel fellow. The Appel family generously donated funding to Claremont McKenna College to support first-year students in using writing as a tool for exploration and personal growth.

Appel fellowships provide first-year students with a unique opportunity to find inspiration in the act of writing. These fellowships are not internships. Instead, Appel fellows pursue a writing project, often with a significant travel component, around a theme or question that is significant for them. The project need not be related to their academic major, and they can write in any form/genre, but writing must be central to the project. Ideally they will develop a regular writing practice during the course of the summer, one that allows them to grow and take risks as writers while gaining a deeper understanding of themselves and their place in the world.

Faculty advisors are encouraged to support their fellows in the following ways:

- Before departure (spring semester):
 - o Meet with the fellow at least once before their action plan deadline of **May 2nd** to offer advice as they work on the action plan and to set a schedule for future check-ins.
 - o Encourage the fellow to design a manageable and focused project.
 - o Discuss the form of the final writing project. Fellows have written personal essays, interviews, blog or vlog posts, zines, fiction, poetry, screenplays, journalistic writing, podcasts, and documentary films; multimedia projects do need to incorporate or be accompanied by a significant writing component.
 - o Help the fellow locate relevant resources for their project, for ex. suggesting useful background material, helping them developing a reading list, identifying individuals or organizations with whom the fellow might collaborate, or suggesting important locations the fellow might visit during their travels.
 - o Offer guidance on the project objectives, project plan, and timeline for completion.
- Over the summer:
 - o Be in touch with the fellow according to your agreed-upon schedule for progress reports, to offer feedback on work in progress, or just for accountability. It's great if you can set a schedule and medium (email, phone, zoom) for summer check-ins before students leave campus. Most fellows check in every 2-3 weeks.
 - o *If you do not hear from your Fellow on schedule, please let me know!* I check in with students regularly to make sure they are safe, but I also need to follow up if they are not meeting their project goals.
- Mid- to Late-August:
 - o Fellows must submit their final draft to you and to the program by **Sept. 5**. No grade is needed, but please give these students' work a careful read and a thoughtful response, either in writing or in a conversation.

Appel fellows must do the following to receive funding:

- Attend pre-departure orientation meetings and at least two writing workshops.
- Communicate with their faculty advisors over the summer.
- Send updates to the Appel fellowship coordinator over the course of the summer.
- Submit a final draft of their project to their faculty advisors and to the Appel fellowship coordinator by Sept 5, 2025.
- Share their project with the CMC community (via the CWPD/Appel website, our January Ath celebration, on-campus panels and info sessions, and/or other forums). We hope to see you at an event in the future.

Appel advisors will receive a stipend of \$500 per student. Please feel free to contact me with any questions or concerns you might have! Thank you, again, for supporting our Appel fellows.