

Start: Dec 11, 2023 **Deadline:** Mar 30, 2024

Grace Period: 5 days

Application Fee (USD): \$0.00 ?

Applications: 112 completed and 93 in progress

Share: <https://uchicagomellonmays.slideroom.com/#/permalink/pi>

Only admitted Mellon Mays Fellows may apply to this program. If you have any questions, please contact Elise LaRose, Summer Research Training Program Director at mmufatuchicago@gmail.com. Please note that this program provides residence and a meal plan in a UChicago dormitory. It is not possible to participate remotely, unless public health regulations mandate that we do so. Once admitted, we will request that you provide proof of immunizations--all childhood immunizations as well as for COVID 19. Documentation of your childhood immunizations is required by the State of Illinois for anybody enrolled in school, and the COVID 19 documentation is required by anybody participating in programs at UChicago.

2024 Mellon Mays Summer Research Training Program for Visiting Scholars

Deadline: Mar 30, 2024

Only admitted Mellon Mays Fellows may apply to this program. If you have any questions, please contact Elise LaRose, Summer Research Training Program Director at mmufatuchicago@gmail.com.

Please note that this program provides residence and a meal plan in a UChicago dormitory. It is not possible to participate remotely, unless public health regulations mandate that we do so. Once admitted, we will request that you provide proof of immunizations--all childhood immunizations as well as for COVID 19. Documentation of your childhood immunizations is required by the State of Illinois for anybody enrolled in school, and the COVID 19 documentation is required by anybody participating in programs at UChicago.

Forms

General Information

1. **Last Name**

2. **First Name**

3. **Date of Birth**

4. **College**

5. **Major(s)**

6. Cumulative GPA

7. Gender

Here, please share what your legal documents indicate. Please note that below we ask for your pronouns.

8. Pronouns

Please share your pronouns here, particularly if your gender identity differs from the above. Feel free to write any other relevant information here as well.

9. Citizenship-Country

10. Year in College

11. Email Address

12. Permanent Street Address

13. City

14. State/Province

15. Zip/Postal Code

16. Preferred Phone Number

17. Emergency Contact Phone Number

18. Last Name-Program Coordinator

19. First Name-Program Coordinator

20. Program Coordinator Phone Number

21. Program Coordinator Email Address

22. Last Name-Faculty Advisor/Mentor

23. First Name-Faculty Advisor/Mentor

24. Email Address of Faculty Advisor/Mentor

25. Who gave you feedback on drafts of your essay responses?

We strongly recommend that you receive guidance & feedback on your answers from a faculty member, and possibly others. Please check all that apply.

26. **Resume/CV**

27. **[OPTIONAL] Potential Summer Plans**

Have you either applied or have you been admitted to other summer opportunities and internships? If yes, what is the deadline by which you must make a decision?

Part I: Presentation of Research Interests

1. **Statement of research interest**

Provide us with a statement of research interest that addresses the following: What is your central research question and how did you arrive at it? What topics/objects are relevant to your research? Include here any commitments orienting your approach to this research; e.g disciplines, methods, literatures, etc. (250 words maximum)

2. **Research interest follow up**

With respect to your research interests, please elaborate on the following: What are your hunches about what you think you will find in investigating your question? (200 words max)

3. **Scholarly context**

If you have had the opportunity to read other scholars on your topic, who are the central scholars you are engaging with? (150 words max)

4. **Coursework and training**

What classes have you taken that have prepared you for your project? Are you actively planning or anticipating additional training in this respect? What training, classes, or mentorship would you seek if you had the guidance/support? "Training" can include any preparation relevant to your proposed study; e.g., coursework; directed readings; methods knowledge; languages; preliminary research; participation; theory or topic-specific work; etc. (200 words max)

5. **Please tell us if you have taken any qualitative methodology courses addressing the following:**

Check all that may apply

6. **Question 5 Follow-up: Please share with us the titles of the courses you took and/or provide a brief description of the project that you worked on**

Optional question

Part II: Exploration of Interests

1. **Exploration of Interests: Further Context**

The following questions are designed around an exercise developed by the anthropologist Joseph Dumit in his 2011 piece "Writing the Implosion: Teaching the World One Thing at a Time"--a piece directly indebted to Donna Haraway's queering of science studies. They invite you to conceive of your project as a puzzle

composed of the manifold stories told about your object and challenge you to play with how the pieces of the puzzle fit together, what pieces are missing, and where you might find them. Consider it a free writing exercise to help you get words on the page--we will figure out what the words mean over the summer!

The flexibility of this prompt may be a surprise, but we ask you to feel free to be as creative and expansive as you desire.

What to avoid: Try not to be clever here! Try not to look anything up online! If you get stuck, come back to it after you have truly set it down. The end product could look like a list of insights, or full paragraphs. No matter what, however, it should be messy because research is always a little messy in the beginning.

2. **Step 1: Knowledge Map**

A) As systematically as you can muster, unpack what you already know about your object of research; and how you came to know about it.

You are strongly encouraged to refer to Dumit's list of questions (2011: 351-354) to guide you through different dimensions of knowing your object: labor, epistemological, material, technological, contextual, political, economic, textual, bodily, historical, educational, mythological, symbolic (this list is not exhaustive: feel free to add your own!)

On "how you know": consider why you care to know, and the "forms of certainty" you feel (Dumit 2011: 351).

B) What question(s) do you have about what you already know?

(2 pages)

3. **Step 2: Gap Map**

A) Reflecting on your knowledge map, describe any patterns/logics/relationships that emerge, unpacking what you don't know, and why you think you don't know it.

Consider blind spots and boundaries that shape your approach to your object. Consider who might know what you don't, and why they might care to know.

B) What question(s) do you have about what you don't know?

(1 page)

4. **Step 3: Investigation**

A) Consider where you might look for answers to some of your questions about your proposed object of inquiry:

a document or an artifact you could analyze;

an expert or lay person you could talk to;

an archive you could dive into;

an activity you could participate in;

a process you could observe.

Select at least two of the above and explain 1) what specific source (archive, activity, document, etc.) would you examine, and why you would find it worth investigating; and 2) what questions you would ask of/about it?

B) Reflect on the specific questions you articulated: Are there any patterns to your style of questioning? Do you see a logic to your knowledge map or gap map? How would you characterize what you propose to do? And how would the proposed inquiry change if you decided to use a different source?

(1 page)

Community Member Recommendation

1. **Recommender first and last name**
2. **Recommender job title and organization**
3. **Recommender email**
4. **Recommender phone number**

Attachments

1. **Transcript ***

Please upload your most recent transcript here.

2. **Writing Sample ***

Please upload a paper of which you are proud (it doesn't need to be on your research topic). If accepted, this will be shared with your preceptors so they can best craft their plans this summer to strengthen your capacity as a scholarly writer.

References

Applicant will be asked to provide exactly 2 references.

References will be accepted up to 5 days after the program deadline.

Recommenders will be allowed to enter text or upload PDF files.

Waiver Opt Out: Allow

Applicant instructions:

Select one (1) academic faculty reference and one (1) community member reference.

Faculty Recommendation Guidelines: Please note that faculty references, relative to others, should know the applicant reasonably well. The reference does not need to be in the same department as the applicant. Nor does the reference have to be someone who gave the applicant a "high grade." Instead,

we encourage the applicant to get this letter from someone who knows them intellectually, perhaps creatively, and who has taught them. The selected reference will be able to upload a PDF of their recommendation.

Community Member Recommendation Guidelines: Please note that the community member reference should know how the applicant interacts with others in community/group settings. The reference will be asked about the applicant's personal qualities – such as empathy and patience – as well as how they contribute to collaborative environments. Optimal references for this section include dormitory directors, resident assistants (RAs), internship supervisors, religious/spiritual community leaders, and directors of community service-oriented organizations. We do not accept community references from academic advisors, course instructors, and/or professors. With this recommendation, the program hopes to gauge whether the applicant can contribute to a healthy living and learning environment. The selected reference will be able to upload a PDF of their recommendation.

Recommender instructions:

If you are receiving this notification, a student has requested either an academic or community recommendation from you for the Summer 2023 MMUF Summer Research Training Program. Please upload a pdf of your reference to this portal.

Instructions for Academic References: Please provide a comprehensive assessment of the applicant's academic abilities, character, and potential. Comment on the applicant's diligence, punctuality, and overall work ethic. Highlight specific accomplishments, such as grades, awards, or noteworthy projects.

Instructions for Community References: Please speak to how the applicant collaborates with others and contributes to work and/or community environments. Describe the student's leadership style, demonstrated commitment to social justice, personality (patience, maturity, empathy, etc.). If possible, tell us about a situation in which you may have observed the applicant responding to or participating in a sensitive or politically charged conversation.

Media

Provide 0-5 items.

Allowed Media Types:

- Images (up to 5MB each)
- Video (up to 250MB each)
- Audio (up to 30MB each)
- PDFs (up to 10MB each)
- 3D Models
- External media from YouTube, Vimeo and SoundCloud

Applicant instructions:

We welcome you to share any creative writing or other artistic and musical work.