INTERNSHIP OPPORTUNITY

ANDREW W. MELLON UNDERGRADUATE INTERNSHIPS IN LEGAL HUMANITIES, 2020–21

Deadline: March 2, 2020

The Illinois Program for Research in the Humanities (IPRH), with funding from the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, is looking for undergraduate interns to work with its Legal Humanities research group for the academic year 2020–21.

Legal humanities examines how the law, society, culture, politics, and economy are mutually constituted. It thus draws from a range of methodologies, including those dealing with representation (e.g., literary, cultural, and performance studies), history, and sociological perspectives. Legal humanities understands the law as both reflecting and actively influencing societal values, aspirations, anxieties, biases, and notions of justice, examining how law constitutes and shapes the social world in which it is embedded. The IPRH-Mellon Legal Humanities Research Group is composed of professors, post-doctoral scholars, graduate students, and undergraduates from different disciplines who are united by their desire to understand the multiple ways the law, broadly conceived, shapes human relations to each other and the places we live.

The research group seeks three undergraduate interns who will work with the group on their seminars, workshops, and programs. Interns will also work with the research group director, Professor A. Naomi Paik, to develop their own research projects as well as a research symposium for undergraduates at the end of the spring semester.

Eligibility

The position is open to current University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign undergraduate students in good academic standing. Applicants for the internship should ideally anticipate being juniors or seniors for the year of the internship and should demonstrate some familiarity with and/or curiosity about the intersections between law and the humanities.

Terms of Internship

Duties of the yearlong internship include:

- Attendance at weekly research-group meeting (9 am to 11 am on Fridays);
- Weekly meeting with research group director to talk over research projects;
- Assisting with research group workshops and program activities; and
- Organizing and presenting at an undergraduate research symposium.

Interns will work approximately 10 to 11 hours per week, paid at the rate of $15.75 per hour (up to $5000/year), and will have up to $600 to support their research.

Application Guidelines
Applicants should send:

- A completed Application Cover Sheet ([Download application cover sheet here](#));
- An unofficial transcript; and
- A 750 word essay explaining [their interest in working at the intersection of the humanities and legal studies with a team of graduate students, postdoctoral fellows, and faculty, What are the uses of studying legal problems and issues from a humanistic (historical, literary, philosophical, etc.) standpoint?]

In addition, applicants should arrange for two letters of recommendation from instructors or professors to be sent directly to the IPRH@illinois.edu email address. Letter writers should indicate clearly the candidate whom they are recommending. Letters are also due by 5 p.m. on March 2nd.

All materials should be sent to IPRH@illinois.edu by 5 p.m. on March 2, 2020. Late applications will not be accepted. We are happy to answer general inquiries about the application process, but because of the volume of applications IPRH receives, we are unable to offer specific feedback on individual applications.

**Selection Criteria**

The applications will be reviewed by the Mellon Faculty Fellow in Legal Humanities, the IPRH Director and Principal Investigator on the Mellon Emerging Areas in the Humanities grant, and Members of the IPRH Advisory Committee, who will make their selection recommendations to IPRH. The IPRH Deputy Director serves on the committee in an ex officio capacity.

Submissions will be evaluated on the following criteria:

- the quality of the essay,
- the strength of the academic record
- the letters of support, and
- Interest in collaborative work.

**Application Deadline**

Complete applications must be received by 5 p.m. on March 2, 2020 at the IPRH@illinois.edu email. Late or incomplete applications will not be forwarded to the selection committee for consideration.

**Notification**

All applications will be acknowledged via e-mail, and all applicants will be notified in the latter part of the spring 2020 semester, when the search has concluded.