Undergraduate Summer Research and Artistry Fellowship Program

College of Liberal Arts and Sciences

Bradley University

The Bradley University College of Liberal Arts and Sciences is strongly committed to students’ experiential learning. A feature of that commitment involves finding ways to expand opportunities for undergraduate research and artistic activity, especially during the summer months. Meritorious summer research and artistry substantially advances students’ intellectual and personal growth.

**Purpose:** To provide an outstanding College of Liberal Arts and Sciences student with the time, financial support, and intensive faculty mentoring to pursue in-depth, a meaningful research or artistic project related to a senior thesis or capstone project.

**Eligibility:** Any degree-seeking undergraduate currently enrolled full-time (12 or more credit hours) at Bradley University who is (a) in their junior year (60+ credit hours), (b) majoring in one of the departments in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, and (c) able to devote full-time to research or artistic activity for at least 9 weeks during the summer. Students with senior status (90+ hours) are eligible if they are enrolled as a full-time degree-seeking undergraduate at Bradley University during the fall 2016 semester.

There is no definitive model for summer research and artistry. A sampling of activities includes scientific laboratory work, field research, software design and/or application, survey research, mathematical work, archival research, literary or philosophical analysis, cultural studies, interviews, media studies, creative writing and poetry, and translation work.

**Award:** The undergraduate awardee will receive a $4,500 stipend to cover basic living expenses during the summer. The faculty mentor will receive $500 as an expression of gratitude for devoted summer mentorship. Personnel receiving compensation will be required to fill out time forms at appropriate intervals as requested by the University.

**Selection criteria:** The three criteria for making award decisions are (a) the quality of the student’s proposal, (b) a fit between the research or artistic plan and the proposed timeline for completion, and (c) clear evidence of the faculty mentor’s support for the project.

**Commitments:** The Fellow is expected to work full-time (at least 30 hours a week) on a research or artistic project for at least 9 weeks out of the 13 weeks that span the Bradley 2016 summer sessions (May 16 through August 12). Thus, the minimum commitment is 270 hours (30 per week for 9 weeks). The minimum 9 week commitment can be spread out within the 13 week summer session (allowing for vacation time, etc.).
At the conclusion of the summer (August 12, 2016) the Fellow will submit a **Project Summary** that describes the outcomes of the summer work. The summary will be a five-page double-spaced report that reflects thoughtfully on the summer research or artistic experience and clearly details what was accomplished during the summer period of work. The summary will be submitted in person or electronically to Dr. Derek Montgomery, Associate Dean of Engaged Learning, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, Bradley Hall 233, montg@fsmail.bradley.edu. The project summary should also be given to the faculty mentor.

The Fellow is expected to submit the final work for presentation. The presentation can be at a professional conference and/or at the Bradley Student Expo held in Spring 2017. A copy of the presentation Abstract should be submitted to Dr. Derek Montgomery (address above). The final written project should also be submitted to Dr. Derek Montgomery along with the faculty mentor’s approval.

The student agrees to have his or her name, photograph, and project information appear on Bradley University websites and printed materials.

**Faculty Mentor:** The faculty mentor commits to routinely meet with the student during the summer to discuss the project’s progress. If necessary, these meetings may occur via Skype or some other electronic form. The mentor is a full-time faculty member in a department within the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences.

The mentor will review and approve (a) the project summary at the conclusion of the summer period and (b) the final written work.