

Marcus W. Orr Center for the Humanities  
Freeburg Fellows Program  
Faculty Fellowships for Spring 2026

The purpose of the Faculty Fellowships in the Marcus W. Orr Center for the Humanities (MOCH) Freeburg Fellows Program is to encourage, facilitate, and highlight excellent research in the humanities at the University of Memphis. Operated in tandem with the Freeburg Fellows Dissertation Fellowships, this program allows recipients to write and research in a collaborative, interdisciplinary environment alongside other research-active faculty members and advanced doctoral students. By supporting and showcasing humanities research being conducted by our faculty, this program strengthens the ties between the university and local community and demonstrates the vital role played by the humanities in our culture.

### **Award Details**

Up to four fellowships will be awarded to tenured and tenure-track faculty members in the College of Arts and Sciences. Recipients will be drawn primarily from the four humanities departments (English, Foreign Languages and Literatures, History, Philosophy) and non-humanities faculty member working in related areas. Fellowships provide one semester of research leave and related support in Spring 2026 and an occasion to showcase fellows' work in a public forum. Faculty Fellows will receive their usual pay and benefits during this period and will be relieved of teaching duties (exempting dissertation supervision) and other responsibilities (subject to negotiation with their chair). Fellows will also receive a modest stipend to be used for research-related activities. These fellowships are generously funded by a bequest from Catherine and Charles Freeburg.

### **Eligibility**

All full-time, tenured, and tenure-track College of Arts and Sciences faculty members in good standing are eligible to apply. Fellows cannot have received PDA during the 2024-2025 school year, nor will they be eligible for PDA during the 2026-2027 or 2027-2028 school years. When possible, fellows will be selected so as to create a cohort that is diverse in discipline, academic rank, and background. Projects at any stage of development will be supported, but those that will clearly benefit from the fellowship's support and will lead to a publication and/or significant fellowship/external funding opportunities will be prioritized.

### **Fellowship Requirements**

Fellows are required to remain in residence throughout the fellowship period and to participate in all MOCH-sponsored events and regular fellows meetings. The primary purpose of these meetings is to create a collaborative, interdisciplinary community of scholars where fellows will share their work, provide feedback, discuss research-related challenges they may be facing, explore possible collaborations, provide mentorship to junior colleagues and graduate student fellows, etc. Other meetings may address grant-writing and external funding opportunities; facilitate discussions about course redesign, the future of the humanities, and topical readings of broad interest; feature informal talks by visiting speakers; etc.

At the conclusion of Spring 2026, fellows will be asked to submit a brief report summarizing the work they completed during their period of research leave.

Fellowship recipients will be expected to serve on a review panel for the subsequent year's award cycle.

In Fall 2026, fellows will present on their research in a MOCH-sponsored event aimed at the public and wider university community.

### **Application**

Applications must include the following materials:

- (1) Completed application form (below)
- (2) Current CV
- (3) Supporting letter from applicant's chair/director
- (4) Project narrative (see guidelines below)
- (5) Bibliography (not to exceed two pages)

### **Project Narrative Guidelines**

One aim of the Faculty Fellowship Program is to help foster a climate in which humanities scholars are supported in their pursuit of external funding opportunities. To this end, the requirements for the project narrative largely duplicate the proposal requirements for the main National Endowment for the Humanities grants ([www.neh.gov/grants](http://www.neh.gov/grants) and <https://www.neh.gov/grants/research/fellowships>). Other external funding sources (e.g., ACLS, Guggenheim Foundation) require that applicants address similar topics in their proposal narratives. Applicants for the Faculty Fellowship Program are thus easily able to adapt their proposal narrative in pursuit of external funding opportunities in the future.

In a narrative not to exceed three single-spaced pages, please address the following areas:

- (a) *Research and Contribution* – “Describe the intellectual significance of the proposed project, including its value to humanities scholars, general audiences, or both. Provide an overview of the project, explaining the basic ideas, problems, or questions examined by the study. Explain how the project will complement, challenge, or expand relevant studies in the field.”
- (b) *Methods and Work Plan* – “Describe your methodology and clarify the part or stage of the project that will be supported by the Faculty Fellowship. “Provide a work plan, describing what you will accomplish during the award period. ... If you do not anticipate finishing the entire project during the award period, discuss your plan for doing so.”
- (c) *Competencies, Skills, and Access* – “Explain your competence in the area of your project. If the area of inquiry is new to you, explain your reasons for working in it and your qualifications to do so. Specify your level of competence in any language or digital technology needed for the study.”
- (d) *Final Product and Dissemination* – “Describe the intended audience and the intended results of the project.” Outline the anticipated research outputs (e.g., articles, book chapters).

### **Deadline**

All application materials must be submitted electronically via PDF to [moch@memphis.edu](mailto:moch@memphis.edu) by Friday, March 7, 2025. The subject line must read “Faculty Fellowship.”

Marcus W. Orr Center for the Humanities  
Freeburg Faculty Fellowship Program Application for Spring 2025

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ UUID: \_\_\_\_\_

Department/Center: \_\_\_\_\_ Faculty Rank: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Department Chair/Director: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Project Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Have you received internal or external research support within the past three years? Yes No

*If so, please provide the following details: semester/year, funding type, source, amount, project title*

Project Abstract

*Please provide an abstract (350 words maximum) that briefly summarizes the proposed project and outlines the projected outputs.*