

PRF 26-27: Engaging Portland

Undergraduate Research Opportunity: Call for Student Fellows

Program Description

The Public Research Fellows program brings students and faculty together across disciplines to explore timely topics and problems through publicly engaged research projects that use engaged humanities approaches. If you're interested in gaining research experience in a collaborative environment, check out the details of next year's program below and apply! All majors welcome.

Why Engage Portland?

University campuses exist within larger neighborhoods, cities, and regions but rather than feel connected to their local contexts, they can often feel more like a bubble. Our "Engaging Portland" theme seeks to connect UP and its students and faculty with local issues and nearby communities through academic research projects that build bridges to the world beyond the classroom.

What do Student Fellows do?

- Participate in small teams (at least 1 meeting per two weeks) to help develop projects by conducting research under faculty guidance and collaborating with other student fellows (students will enroll in one research credit per term with one of the faculty fellows in the working group).
- Enroll in a 1-credit reading course in the fall semester: Fall 2026: CAS 391: "Engaged Humanities Fundamentals" (T 6:00-6:55pm)
- Meet with the full PRF student cohort 4 times across the spring semester (times TBD)

What do Student Fellows gain?

- 3 credits (two in the Fall and one in the Spring)
- Experience in undergraduate research and working closely with faculty
- The chance to collaborate with a close-knit, dedicated group of students from a variety of disciplines
- Concrete professional development opportunities and skills
- The opportunity to participate in a Mellon Foundation supported program (a great line for your resume!)

What are we looking for in Student Fellows?

We're looking for students who meet the following criteria:

- Creative, flexible, and work well with others
- Have a desire to learn about the engaged humanities and how they can help us build connections across disciplines and in our communities
- Have sufficient room in their schedule to dedicate time to the Fall course and their working group project research (~4-5 hours per week; will vary across the year)

Learn More and Apply

Check out the project descriptions and apply through Handshake

Questions? Email Dr. Jen McDanel (mcdaneld@up.edu)