

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 Environmental Humanities?

We often think of the study of the environment as something best done by physical scientists who measure water levels, analyze climate records, and model atmospheric patterns. But our relationship with the natural world and our hopes for the earth's future are very much also related to our imaginative worlds and the stories we tell about them. With this year's program theme we seek to build projects that explore ways of shaping and sharing those stories, using the practices of the humanities and engaging with wider publics to consider the relationship between how we think about the environment, our actions, and our futures. Project topics will include: climate change storytelling, wilderness literature and mental health, wildfire regeneration and visual culture, fast fashion, sustainable dorm move-out, and more.

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 pair of 1-credit reading courses in both fall and spring semesters: Fall 2025: CAS 391: "Engaged Humanities Fundamentals" (T 6:00-6:55pm); Spring 2026 CAS 391: "Engaged Humanities Futures" (day/time TBD)

What do Student Fellows gain?

- 4 credits (two in the Fall and two 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 National Endowment for the Humanities supported project (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 works well with others
- Has a desire to learn about the engaged humanities and how they can help us build connections across disciplines to explore the environment
- Has sufficient room in their schedule to dedicate time to the courses and their working group project research (~5 hours per week; will vary across the year)

How can you learn more and apply?

Check out the project descriptions [on the program website](#) along with the application instructions. Questions? Email Dr. Jen McDanel (mcdanel@up.edu).