Public Research Fellows 2021-2022

Program Information for Students

The Public Research Fellows is a new program on campus that brings students and faculty together from across disciplines to explore timely topics and problems through publicly-engaged research projects. In our first two years, students from majors as diverse as Music, Business, Chemistry, and Political Science participated in the development of projects that pushed the boundaries of what research looks like, creating interactive maps, podcasts, performances, and exhibits that connect scholarship to the wider public and the communities in which we live. You can check out a variety of these projects from [Year 1](https://college.up.edu/prf/previous-years/2019-20/projects/index.html) and [Year 2](https://college.up.edu/prf/previous-years/2020-21/projects/index.html) on the PRF website.

While our first two years each explored a different theme (the Women’s Suffrage Centennial and Displacement and Justice, respectively), in 21-22 the program will try out a new working group model in which faculty fellows partner with students to develop projects around topics of their own design.

**What do Student Fellows do?**

* Take a 1-credit reading course in both Fall and Spring semesters (Fall meeting time: Tu 4:10); the course will provide background and tools in public humanities methods with the goal of helping engage research teams’ projects with a wider community
* Participate in regular meetings with your faculty partners (at least once every two weeks); help develop Working Group projects; conduct research under faculty guidance
* Help plan and participate in program events, such as a Spring Symposium (date TBD)

**What’s in it for Student Fellows?**

* 3 credits total (1 credit of CAS 391 in both Fall and Spring and 1 credit of Undergraduate Research in the Spring)
* Experience in undergraduate research and working closely with faculty
* The chance to work with a close-knit, dedicated group of students from a variety of disciplines
* The opportunity to help shape a new and exciting program on campus

**What do previous Student Fellows say about their experience in the program?**

Click on the links below to watch short clips of Student Fellows discussing their takeaways, such as:

* Athena Hills on [what made her work in PRF different](https://upedu-my.sharepoint.com/:v:/g/personal/mcdaneld_up_edu/ETxbsjASql9LqZ17d3dsy9oB-jIxe4pmHXKm_2WJFhie4g?e=0fI1GF) from her other academic work
* Grace Fortson on [the value of connecting research to the “real world”](https://upedu-my.sharepoint.com/:v:/g/personal/mcdaneld_up_edu/EcUAoAle6OhMlcg6lBGTSGgBrOt_MS58Soj_E5IdiEZXTw?e=JxRAZ0)
* Sarah James on [how the program created lasting connections for her](https://upedu-my.sharepoint.com/:v:/g/personal/mcdaneld_up_edu/ES1P411qtjtAj_R-twHcONcBjUC7fbdtUwPaFINwCxZg9A?e=ZemEl2)
* Crystal Wallace’s [montage of her experience in PRF](https://upedu-my.sharepoint.com/:v:/g/personal/mcdaneld_up_edu/EU2AdcTbaRJFiJamYmm_ayIBqKQRbAIngwPyIZ1DIrF48g?e=DGj0MQ) across the year

You might also check out the [short film](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2NbXQ6j77Qg) the PRF interns created last year to showcase the program work.

Want to find out more? Contact Dr. Jen McDaneld ([mcdaneld@up.edu](mailto:mcdaneld@up.edu)) with questions.