Mellon Project Grant
Eligibility and Program Policies

Eligibility

Eligible faculty members are Full Professors at Berkeley (at the time of application) whose research projects fall clearly within the domain of the arts or humanities, broadly construed and have not previously received an MPG award as a Full Professor.

The program is intended to support only those faculty members whose proposed projects are clearly humanistic (including studies in language, both modern and classical; literature; jurisprudence; philosophy; archeology; the history, criticism, and theory of the arts; digital humanities; and those aspects of history, linguistics, and the social sciences which have humanistic content and employ humanistic methods) or in the creative arts (including architects, painters, sculptors, composers, writers, poets, stage designers, performers, and other artists in creative fields).

Funding levels and time periods

Grants may be made in amounts ranging from $5,000 to $35,000. Along with the narrative of the proposed project, we ask that a budget is submitted. Budgets will be evaluated in detail to ensure that all proposed expenditures are directly relevant to the project. Partial funding awards may in some instances be made as the result of budget review.

It is expected that grants will be spent within one year from the time the award is received. If there are unspent funds after eighteen months, the grant-holder will be asked to provide a justification for extending the time for expenditure. If no adequate justification is provided, funds may be withdrawn.

Purposes for which Mellon Project Grants may be used:

Applicants are encouraged to apply for research support in a broad range of categories, including the following:

- Travel, lodging, and per diem costs to attend conferences, consult archives, conduct interviews, or examine art works
- Support for a Graduate Student Researcher
- Costs of organizing and hosting a conference
- Costs of purchasing books, journals, films, images, or data sets that would benefit a research project;
- Subvention costs for publication of research
- Costs of purchasing computing hardware or software to be used in a research project
- Costs of purchasing other equipment or materials that would aid in a research project

Funds may be requested in categories different from those listed above, and they may be requested within a single category or within a number of categories, so long as all the funds requested would support a single research project.

Please note that MPG grants may not be used to pay nine-month salary or summer salary to the grant-holder.

Campus policies concerning reimbursement for travel, lodging, and per diem expenses may be found online at http://policy.ucop.edu/doc/3420365. Applicants should be aware that when the campus provides funds for purchase of books, hardware, and the like, those items are the property of the University of California.
Campus policies concerning Graduate Student Researchers can be found online at http://grad.berkeley.edu/financial/graduate-student-employment/guide/#vii-graduate-student-research-gsr-appointments.

Program policies and guidelines:

Faculty members may receive a Mellon Project Grant only once as a Full Professor.

Full Professors may apply for a Mellon Project Grant in conjunction with a Humanities Research Fellowship, or independently of one another.

Faculty members are encouraged to apply for outside funding for their research. If they receive some or all of the support they need from another source, they are expected to return some or all of their Mellon Project Grant. Recipients of a Mellon Project Grant should immediately notify the Dean of Arts and Humanities in writing upon receiving another research-supporting grant.

The selection committee will judge proposals primarily upon the quality of the research project that the Mellon Project Grant would support, but its judgment will also depend upon the presentation of a realistic budget and timeline for expenditure, along with a clear account of the way in which the expenditures would advance the research project.

Deadlines and Application Process

The completed application must be submitted by Monday, September 30, 2019. Late applications will not be considered.

The Deans’ Office will provide the Department Chairs and Managers with the applications from their respective department. The Chair is asked to write a statement carefully assessing the merits of each project, the capacity of the department to maintain its course offerings in the applicant's absence (if applicable), and to identify any special circumstances that might be pertinent in the MPG selection process. The Chair is then asked to rank all applications received.

The Chair’s statement for each application along with the ranking must be returned to Andrew Susskind (LSDO@berkeley.edu) no later than Wednesday, October 23, 2019.