

# UChicago Summer Research Training Program

## S RTP

The University of Chicago

### *Program Dates:*

APPLICATION DUE DATE: February 20.

NOTIFICATION DATE: by March 15, by email.

Commitment Deadline: Ideally, by April 1. Email Elise LaRose, emlarose@uchicago.edu

Program Move: In: Monday, June 12, 2017

Program Orientation: Tuesday, June 13, 2017

Due Date of Research Essay & Annotated Bibliography: August 8

Research Symposium for all UChicago Summer Research Students: August 10, 2017 (Students will also attend and present at the C3: LADO research symposium.)

PROGRAM Departure: August 12, 2017

### *Student Stipend & Travel Expenses:*

Stipend: \$3500: \$4000. Please confirm the exact amount with your home institution. Please also note that while in our program you will earn credits from UChicago, and will receive an official transcript of credits you may be able to transfer to your school.

Travel Reimbursement: Yes, within reason. Please keep receipts.

### *Overview of the UChicago SRTP:*

A nine-week residential program (mid-June-mid-August), the UChicago Summer Research Training Program (SRTP) prepares students participating in Mellon-funded programs for graduate study and rigorous research. A structured program, in the SRTP students complete credit-bearing courses in academic writing and social theory, are closely mentored by advanced graduate students and faculty, attend multiple workshops and make presentations at the Chicago Research Symposium (held in the final week of the program). Through the SRTP, students deepen their analytic and creative capacities, develop further their scholarly writing and presentation skills, explore research approaches and methodologies relevant to their areas of study, and experience a unique community living among others who share both a passion for ideas and research as well as common values and commitments. The experience of community fostered by the SRTP takes its inspiration from the life and work of Benjamin Mays--alumnus of the University of Chicago and life-long civil and human rights activist.

### *Capacities and Experiences*

The program:

- deepens students' **critical and analytical capacities**
- develops further students' **scholarly writing and presentation skills**
- introduces students' to **methodology and research design** relevant to their areas of study, preparing them to carry out independent research projects
- offers a distinct experience of **cohort and community**, inspired by the life and work of Benjamin E. Mays--alumnus of UChicago, mentor to many, scholar and lifelong civil & human

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rights activist

- pairs students with faculty and graduate students mentors, and develops students' capacities in building strong and **lasting mentoring relationships**

### ***The Importance of Mentorship***

The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation has described its commitment to faculty mentoring in the following way:

*As mentors, faculty members have the knowledge and responsibility to demystify the formal and informal aspects of earning a doctorate. Mentors also give fellows insight into the fulfillment and rewards of a career in scholarship and teaching. In the mentoring relationship, the sharing of personal experience and the transmission of knowledge intersect in a trusting learning environment that provides opportunities for both mentor and student to stretch beyond her or his boundaries.*

To this end, summer students will meet or correspond with their faculty mentor regularly during the program, building a relationship that will hopefully endure far beyond the summer.

### ***Courses and Workshops***

Courses are taught by faculty and advanced graduate students (supervised by faculty).

- Engaged Scholarship (faculty)
- Writing for Research (faculty)
- Preceptor-Led Research Proposal Seminar (advanced graduate students who are "A.B.D."= all but dissertation.)
- Weekly U.S.-Chicago Social Histories Workshop & Outings (Speakers may be faculty, community leaders or artists. Includes transportation, as well as lunch or dinner.)
- Additional Workshops that explore: Applying Strategically to Graduate School; Health & Wellness; Creativity in Scholarship; the Social History of Diversity, and Ways of Being an Engaged Scholar.

The SRTP also offers a number of social gatherings, and sponsors outings to theater, dance and music performance and to art and history museums and landmarks. students to build a lasting community of scholarly and psychosocial support among their peers.

### Course Descriptions

#### ***Engaged Scholarship: History, Culture and the Construction of Race & Ethnicity***

In honor of the legacy of Benjamin Mays, this course examines the question of what it might mean to be an "engaged scholar." The goal of this course is to consider the ways academics can contribute to the development of an emancipatory politics through the production of socially and intellectually important scholarship. In order to accomplish this task, students survey writings by critical thinkers, considering the object and method of authors' critiques as a means for developing their own. Where appropriate, students review the historical context of selected works, and consider their value in creating progressive social theory and practice.

Involving both lecture and directed discussion, this course is taught by a faculty member or post-doctoral fellow whose research interrogates concepts of 'culture,' 'society,' 'gender,' 'race,' and 'ethnicity'. Readings include examinations of peoples and countries from around the world. This course asks students from across the disciplines to think epistemologically and to examine the ways in which their own experiences (historical, social, cultural, class-located, gendered, and racialized) inform critical inquiry and influence scholarly questions.

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### ***Writing for Research: Constructing Problems***

Kathryn Cochran, Associate Director of Writing Programs at the University of Chicago, teaches this course. Ms. Cochran brings to this course her experience in teaching professional and academic writing at the University of Chicago and to professionals in a wide variety of fields. Students meet twice a week, once in lecture (Thursdays), and once in a writing seminar (Tuesdays) led by a member of the Chicago Writing Program staff.

In the course, students analyze and write in the several modes important for moving from research to a working proposal: among them, summary, annotation, analysis, and the construction of a problem that can be addressed by the proposed research. They submit writing on a weekly basis. Workshop groups are small and are limited to 6-8 students. By the end of the 8th week of this program, students will have presented their research in a research symposium. By the end of the 9th week of the SRTP, students submit the abstract, critical annotated bibliography (minimum of 20 entries) and a revised research essay of 15-25 pages. This research essay is meant to serve as a "roadmap" for the research that students will carry out in the next year and as an agenda to guide them in working with their faculty mentors.

### ***Preceptor-Led Research Proposal Seminar***

Additionally, students meet once a week for a 2-hour Preceptor Group, and individually with their assigned preceptor-mentor. Advanced graduate students lead these small groups, while also working intensively with each student. The preceptor group serves to guide and support students in the *process of writing* their research essays. It offers practical suggestions and also helps students come up with strategies when they get "stuck." Students complete weekly assignments that correlate with the writing that they are doing for the Writing for Research course. These weekly assignments assist students in drafting sections of their research essay. Fellows are broken up into preceptor groups based on their field of study (humanities, social sciences, etc.), so they are able to build a community of learning with other students working on similar projects, as well as learn the etiquette of peer critique and ways to provide constructive feedback of others' work.

### ***Practical Matters (Cost of Participation):***

We cover all costs associated with required program activities. Participation in this program also provides:

- Dormitory accommodations (for 9 weeks. See: [http://housing.uchicago.edu/houses\\_houses/max\\_palevsky\\_residential\\_commons/](http://housing.uchicago.edu/houses_houses/max_palevsky_residential_commons/))
- Dining Plan: "Maroon dollars" which you can use either in a dormitory dining hall or on campus at one of our cafes. This should cover approximately 2 meals per day.
- Access to UChicago Student Health Service
- Course Credit for 2 UChicago courses + Lifetime free access to your Transcript: (If you were matriculating in UChicago's summer school, this would add up to a value of more than \$6000.)
- Books and articles associated with your courses
- A printing account
- Full use of all resources available at any of our libraries
- Full use of our state-of-the-art athletic facilities (<http://athletics.uchicago.edu/facilities/ratner/index>)

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- Full use of UChicago's Arts Pass Program (<https://arts.uchicago.edu/arts-pass>)
- Subsidized Social and Cultural Activities

### **FAQ:**

1. **Do you provide transportation to/from the program?** We will reimburse you for flight, train or bus tickets, within reason, to/from Chicago. Once in Chicago, we cannot cover your costs. Please note, however, that there are multiple ways to get to our neighborhood. Should you come to our program, in late May we will send you information about how to get to our campus.
2. **What Chicago-area airports can I fly into?** Either Midway or O'Hare will work. Midway is a bit closer to us, but you should choose the airport where you can get the flight that meets your needs.
3. **Can I get a single room?** Only those with verifiable health conditions, or for reasons of religious observance, are guaranteed a single room. If you have concerns about this, please contact directly Elise LaRose.
4. **Do you provide a stipend for additional expenses, such as for public transportation or independent social outings?** We do provide you with a "starter" Chicago Transit Authority Ventra card of \$10, which you will need to refill as needed throughout the summer. Your UChicago ID card will provide you with free bus transportation around the neighborhood. Generally speaking, we fully subsidize those outings and activities that we require as part of the program. For other activities for which you might organize a group of students, we offer partial subsidies.
5. **Do you provide GRE preparation?** In past summers, we have been able to offer this when a significant number of students are interested; however, only rising seniors are permitted to participate in this workshop.
6. **Who else will be living in the dorm with me?** Annually, the Office of the Deputy Provost for Research & Minority Issues sponsors a Leadership Alliance Program of approximately 20 students, a small PSOMER program for those preparing for medical school, as well the Mellon Mays Summer Research Training Program that hosts approximately 40 students. [Please see: [diversityinitiatives.uchicago.edu](http://diversityinitiatives.uchicago.edu)] As a C-3 participant, you will be living in a community of approximately 60-80 students from these programs who share similar experiences, goals and aspirations as yours.
7. **Will I be able to use Student Health Services?** Yes. We pay UChicago's Student Life Fee for you so that you can use Student Health Services, but if a health care professional directs you to get additional tests or other care, you will need to ensure that the insurance you carry covers such services.
8. **Will UCHospitals accept the insurance that I carry?** This depends. Please note that to participate in our program, you must carry insurance that meets UChicago's standard of coverage. (This is often confusing to students; we can assist you with this once you express interest in accepting our offer of admission.)

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