



The Dedman College Interdisciplinary Institute is pleased to announce a call for applications for the **DCII Graduate Student Summer Research and Writing Fellowship Program**.

The purpose of the DCII Summer Fellowship Program is to support SMU graduate students as they pursue research on topics of interdisciplinary interest and impact. The program is designed to give graduate students the resources to devote themselves to full-time research or writing during the summer months and the opportunity to engage with other students who share their interdisciplinary interests.

Eligibility: The program is open to all SMU graduate students who will continue to be enrolled in Fall 2026. However, because the program is a DCII initiative, Dedman College affiliation will be weighed positively in making award decisions. In addition, to benefit as many students as possible, applications from students who have not previously received a Fellowship will be weighed positively in making award decisions.

Award Amount: Up to \$4000. Award funds will be distributed as summer salary.

Expectations: Summer Fellows are expected to share summer research plans at an initial cohort meeting in the late Spring and to present summer research findings during cohort meetings in the Fall. For Fellows who are on campus over the summer, there will also be occasional opportunities to meet and discuss research progress and collaboratively tackle research challenges.

Submission Deadline: March 6, 2026 at 5 p.m.

Submission Guidelines:

Applications should be submitted via the following link:

<https://www.smu.edu/dedman/research/institutes-and-centers/dcii/fellowships/graduate-student-summer-fellowship/graduate-student-summer-fellowship-application>

The application form includes a series of fillable fields in which you are asked to describe elements of the proposed research or writing:

1. Describe the specific research or writing you plan to undertake during Summer 2026, including a timeline, in language that is accessible to a reviewer who is not an expert in your field
2. Explain how the planned research or writing will help your larger research program, and describe the significance and relevance of that program
3. Detail the distinctive disciplinary components brought together in the research program, with attention to interdisciplinary richness (the number of and distance

between the disciplines, the novelty of their combination, and especially the degree of their integration)*

4. Explain how receiving the Fellowship money and/or participating in the Fellowship cohort would benefit your research
5. List all existing and prospective sources of summer funding, including both summer salary and research support (the existence of alternative funding will not affect whether the applicant is chosen as a Fellow but may affect the amount of the Fellowship award)
6. Provide a brief itemized budget outlining your total anticipated summer expenses, including research, conference, and living expenses as applicable
7. Specify the total funds requested, up to \$4000 (the request should not exceed the difference between the total summer budget and the total of alternative funding)
8. List citations

Applicants are also asked to upload a brief **curriculum vitae**, not to exceed three pages.

Applications will be evaluated on the interdisciplinary richness and potential impact of the applicant's research program, as well as on the clarity, specificity, and appropriateness of the applicant's summer research or writing plan. Consideration will also be given to the potential for collaboration among the cohort of Fellowship recipients.

In addition to submitting the application, applicants should arrange for their advisor (or other faculty member familiar with their research program) to write a confidential **letter of support**. Advisor letters of support should be submitted to dcinterdisciplinaryinstitute@smu.edu, with "Summer Fellowship Application LOS" included in the email's "Subject" line.

Questions about the program or application process should be directed to Dr. Karisa Cloward, Ruth Collins Altshuler Director of the Dedman College Interdisciplinary Institute, at kcloward@smu.edu.

* Nissan, Moti. 1995. "Fruits, Salads, and Smoothies: A Working Definition of Interdisciplinarity." *Journal of Educational Thought* 29 (2): 119–26.