

# Writing a Competitive Fellowship Application

Drinko Center Workshop

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# *WHY* are you applying for a summer fellowship?

## To develop a project or idea that...

- you do not have time to develop during the academic year
  - directly relates to an upcoming goal, academic and/or professional
  - extends beyond the focus of Westminster's curriculum
  - requires \$\$\$
  - other reasons?
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# Application Sections & Corresponding Tips for Success

*bridges the personal and the professional*

Tell the story of how you became interested in your topic. Why does it matter to you? And what makes you a strong candidate for this award? Include details.

PERSONAL  
STATEMENT

*demonstrates credibility*

Establish purpose and scope: why *this* project, at *this* time? What is the project's significance in our world today? Include specific methods & goals.

PROJECT  
DESCRIPTION

*demonstrates viability*

Communicate in detail your projected timeframe. Include clear and realistic week-by-week goals & accompanying projected costs.

PROJECT  
TIMELINE

Be sure to proofread these three sections together prior to submission. Successful applications feature sections that *complement* but do not repeat one another!

# PRACTICE

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Example 1: Science (courtesy of U of Maine)

Example 2: Humanities (Westminster C)

Additional Resources



# Closing thoughts

1. Think of the summer fellowship as **one step in your journey** to future success: what can it help you achieve, and how? Articulate these goals clearly in your application.
2. **Research begets research**. Yes, the goal of the summer fellowship is *to do research*. But your application needs to show that you already have done some work! Establish clearly what you already know, and underscore how that knowledge has only made you more curious.
3. **Leave time for drafting and revising**. An application is not unlike a course paper: clarity and purpose are essential. Give yourself time to write and revise, and give your faculty mentor time as well. Meet with your faculty mentor prior to submission to review all parts of the completed application together. Your application will be stronger if you do.

*Questions?*

