

North Carolina
humanities

NORTH CAROLINA HUMANITIES
FELLOWSHIPS

FISCAL YEAR 2026 (NOV 1, 2025 - OCT 31, 2026)



If you have questions after reviewing this document, please contact our Director of Grants and Compliance, Caitlin Patton Stanley:
(704) 248-8901 or cpatton@nchumanities.org.

WHO IS NORTH CAROLINA HUMANITIES?

North Carolina Humanities (NC Humanities/NCH) has been a leading humanities funder in North Carolina since our founding in 1972. NC Humanities creates, facilitates and funds public humanities programs that help North Carolinians make sense of themselves, their neighbors, and their communities by considering new perspectives and thinking critically about the past, the present, and the future. North Carolina Humanities is the state affiliate of the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH).

OUR MISSION

To connect North Carolinians with cultural experiences that spur dialogue, deepen human connections, and inspire community.

OUR VISION

A North Carolina enriched by the humanities and equipped with empathy, understanding, and respect.

OUR VALUES

- ▲ **Curiosity:** We believe that a strong desire to always learn more, know more, and question more is important for growth and lifelong happiness.
- ▲ **Openness:** We believe that a variety of ideas and perspectives is essential to a thriving community.
- ▲ **Engagement** We believe the humanities spark change and encourage meaningful community conversations and experiences that lead to a greater understanding of our similarities and differences.
- ▲ **Knowledge:** We believe that knowledge builds community. When we come together to learn, we become better neighbors and help North Carolina continue to be a great place for all.
- ▲ **Respect:** We believe everyone is important and worthy of politeness and dignity.

ABOUT:

This summer fellowship opportunity supports continuous full or part-time work on a humanities project for a period of two consecutive months. Funds support recipients' compensation related to the proposed scholarly research.



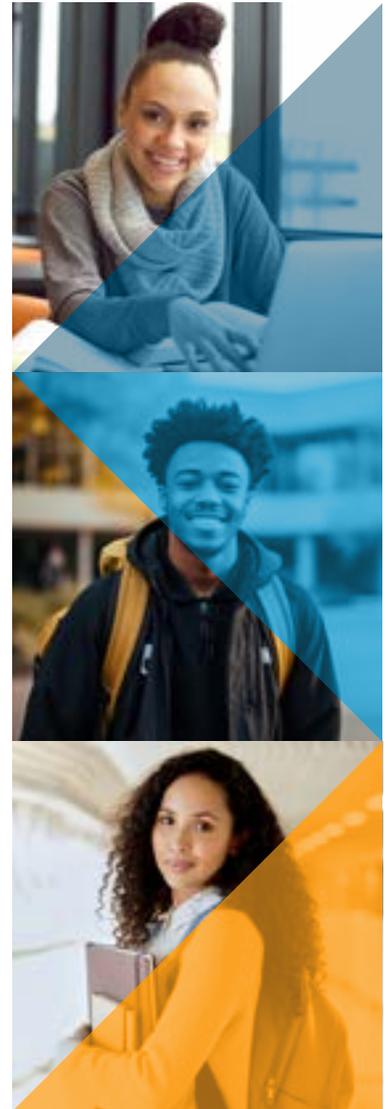
- ▲ **Length of Fellowship:** 2 consecutive months, June-July
- ▲ **Funding Amount:** \$4,000 per month or part-time equivalent.
- ▲ **Time Commitment:** The fellowships supports individuals who work between half time and full-time on their projects. You may combine part- and full-time work, but you must work at least half time and the period of performance must be continuous. If you work full-time on your project, you must forgo teaching and other major activities. If you combine a part-time award with teaching, you must carry a reduced class load during the period of performance. Awards will be reduced to reflect the smaller time commitment when you work part time.
- ▲ **Expected Outputs of the Fellowship Include:** Archaeological Report; Article; Book; Digital Resource or Publication; Edition; Other Scholarly Resource; Translation; etc. NC Humanities will ask for samples of your outputs.

TIME LINE

- **Application Opens**
January 2nd, 2026
- **Submission Deadline**
February 19th 2026
- **Decisions Announced**
By May 1st 2026
- **Award Period**
June 1st - July 31st 2026

ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

- ▲ **Applicants must be eighteen years or older, reside in North Carolina, and be a U.S. citizen.**
- ▲ **Applicants must be affiliated with an institute of Higher Ed.**
 - Individual full-time, part-time, adjunct, and retired faculty members and staff members affiliated with an accredited institute of higher education in North Carolina including community colleges, colleges, and universities at the time of application are eligible to apply.
- ▲ **You may only submit one application per year.**
 - If you have previously received a fellowship, you may apply to support a new project or a new stage of a previously supported project. NC Humanities will assess your application using the same criteria as others in the current competition. However, for previously supported projects, we will ask reviewers to consider the accomplishments from the prior award and determine if the project warrants additional support.
- ▲ **Research activities outside the humanities are ineligible.**
 - This includes empirical social science research and creative or performing arts activities (theater, dance, music, visual arts, or creative writing including autobiographies, memoirs, and creative nonfiction)



FAQs

▲ Is there a residential option?

- This is a non-residential fellowship, designed to provide more flexibility and consideration for recipients.

▲ If selected, how will I receive my stipend?

- Upon acceptance, fellows will fill out a form to be paid directly.
- You must work full-time/part-time on your project as approved and may hold other non-NCH sources of support (for example, sabbaticals and supplementary funding) or grants for the same project during your period of performance.

▲ When can I take my two months?

- Fellowships support work carried out during the summer months June-July, but, occasionally, you may arrange for a period of performance at other times of the year. If you have questions, contact Caitlin Patton Stanley at cpatton@nchumanities.org.

▲ Is cost sharing required?

- No, cost sharing is not required in this program.

▲ Can fellowships be shared?

- The program is designed primarily for individual researchers; awards may not be divided.
- If you are seeking funding for more than one participant in a collaborative project, each person seeking funding must submit a separate application, specifying the individual contribution. NC Humanities will ask reviewers to evaluate each application on its own merits. Each application should clearly explain how the work will be divided and the extent to which each collaborator's contribution depends on that of the other(s). Applicants who are seeking funding only for themselves but who are working as part of a collaborative team are also eligible. In this case, too, the application should clearly explain how the work will be divided and the extent to which each collaborator's contribution depends on that of the other(s).

▲ Can my institution apply?

- Organizations are not eligible to apply on behalf of individuals and NC Humanities will not transfer awards to the applicant's institution.

NC Humanities will not consider incomplete, nonresponsive, or ineligible applications for funding.

WHAT ARE THE HUMANITIES?

There are many ways to interpret what “the humanities” means.

- ▲ The humanities are a set of disciplines which help us understand what it means to be human by exploring:
 - Our Past: history & archaeology
 - Our Cultural Expressions: anthropology, literature, linguistics, languages, art history, theory, and criticism
 - Our Values: ethics, philosophy, comparative religion, law
- ▲ The humanities can also be seen as a range of activities that revolve around exploring culture, such as reading a book, listening to a story, recording your memories and thoughts, talking with people, and questioning the values and motivations of ourselves and others.

Formally, the definition of “the humanities” according to the National Foundation on the Arts and Humanities Act (1965) includes, but is not limited to, the study and interpretation of the following:

- Language, both modern and classical
- Linguistics
- Literature
- History
- Jurisprudence
- Philosophy
- Archaeology
- Comparative religion
- Ethics
- The history, criticism, and theory of the arts
- Social sciences which have humanistic content and/or employ humanistic methods



SUBMISSION INSTRUCTIONS

- ▲ Submission Method: Submissions are made electronically through our online system. Incomplete and ineligible applications will not be reviewed.
 - Note: NC Humanities only accepts applications in our standard formats. We cannot accept ad hoc requests.
- ▲ If you are new to the online system, [you will need to create an account prior to applying](#). Once you have created your account and are logged in to your Applicant Dashboard, click “Apply” in the upper left-hand corner to view an alphabetical list of all open NC Humanities opportunities. We recommend bookmarking the login page for ease of access.
- ▲ If you have previously created an account, [click here to login](#). Once on your Applicant Dashboard, click “Apply” in the upper left-hand corner to view an alphabetical list of all open NC Humanities opportunities. We recommend bookmarking the login page for ease of access.

HOW CAN I GET ADDITIONAL HELP?

NC Humanities regularly offers Fellowship webinars. Please check our website for upcoming dates. We also encourage all prospective applicants to utilize free consultations with our staff to discuss your project.

- Please [click here](#) to schedule a phone consultation to discuss your application, with one of our staff members.

NC Humanities also offers draft review services. Please note: this service is only available upon request until three weeks prior to a submission deadline.

