Academic Honors & Fellowships
Office of Undergraduate Programs
Presentation Overview

- Intro to Academic Honors & Fellowships
  - AHF Staff
  - Mission Statement
  - Approach to Advising

- Research and Fellowships 101
  - Research at USC
  - USC Honors & Awards
  - External Fellowships

- Merit Scholars at USC
  - Trojan Scholar Society
  - Scholar Stories
AHF Staff

Erica Lovano McCann  
Director

Katie Capra  
Associate Director

Andy Jones-Liang  
Assistant Director

Willa Erickson  
Program Assistant

Contact Us:  
ahfstaff@usc.edu  
213-740-9116  
STU 300
AHF Mission

**Educate**

We are committed to educating the USC community about university awards and nationally competitive fellowships.

**Mentor**

We are charged with mentoring motivated students and recent alumni in their pursuit of these opportunities.

**Advise**

We advise Trustee, Presidential, Mork and Stamps Scholars and guide the Trojan Scholar Society (TSS) student organization to promote a vibrant scholar community.
## AHF in Action

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Educate</strong></th>
<th><strong>Mentor</strong></th>
<th><strong>Advise</strong></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Develop and facilitate Research and Fellowships Week.</td>
<td>Connect faculty and students for intentional mentor/mentee relationships.</td>
<td>Create a pipeline of opportunities.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Provide one-on-one, personalized advising for students.</td>
<td>Encourage peer-to-peer resource sharing and feedback circles.</td>
<td>Facilitate campus interview and evaluation processes.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maintain a robust online resource library.</td>
<td>Assist students with academic and professional goal setting.</td>
<td>Guide the Trojan Scholar Society to promote academic, social, and professional development events for merit scholars.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Research at USC

- We are a top-tier research university!
  - In addition to teaching, most USC faculty also conduct research.
  - There are over 70 centers for research at USC.
  - Research is happening in every discipline and through a variety of methods.

- Why do research?
  - Apply knowledge and theory beyond the classroom.
  - Acquire research, critical thinking, and presentation skills.
  - Confirm, add too, or challenge existing theory; discover something new!
  - Cultivate a relationship with a mentor.
  - Prepare for graduate study and career.

Research is an important part of a student’s personal narrative and a major asset when applying for competitive fellowships!
HOW TO

Participate in freshman honors curriculum & foundational coursework.

Use the USC Experts Directory to discover researchers in your field.

Take courses with tenured faculty in a research area of interest.

Attend office hours regularly (not just before exams).

Apply for research funding (Provost, Rose Hills, SURF, SOAR, WISE, etc.)

Explore how research translates internationally through study abroad.
USC Awards

Leonard D. Schaeffer Fellows in Government Service

USC Africa Student Fund

The Queens’ College Cambridge USC Exchange Program

Academic Achievement Award

Warren Bennis Scholars

USC Commencement Honors
USC Scholar Distinctions

Steven & Kathryn Sample Renaissance Scholars
Honors students pursuing major and minor combinations in widely separated fields of study

Discovery Scholars
Honors students engaged in undergraduate research or creative work with faculty guidance

Global Scholars
Honors students who extend their learning by studying, working, or volunteering abroad
Fellowships

Recognizes
» Academic excellence
» Research experience
» Leadership & Service
» Campus / Community Involvement

Rewards purposeful outcomes
» Professional development
» Extensive research portfolio
» Graduate study opportunities
» Develop close mentorship with faculty
» Global experiences: choose your own adventure!
» Financial benefits: they pay YOU!
Fellowship Thematic Categories

- **Graduate Study** awards are for applicants interested in pursuing advanced degrees in North America, Asia, or Europe.

- **International Exchange** provides opportunities for immersive cultural engagement abroad through teaching, research, study or internship.

- **STEM Awards** provide an opportunity for study and/or research in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics.

- **Service Oriented** awards emphasize public policy, international affairs, and public service through various avenues of study, research, and internship.

- **Language Study** promotes language study and immersion internationally for applicants at varying levels of language proficiency.

- **Special Populations** seek applicants from historically underrepresented groups including students of color, high financial need, first-generation, etc.
How To Prepare

1st Year
- Attend annual USC Research Fellowships Week
- Select rigorous academic programs of study
- Maintain high GPA
- Participate in research on / off campus
- Attend office hours and identify faculty mentors
- Take active leadership roles in student orgs
- Attend resume workshops and mock interviews
- Secure summer research funding
- Go on short-term abroad programs
  - Maymesters & Problems Without Passports

2nd Year

3rd Year

4th + Post Grad
How To Prepare

**1st Year**
- Attend annual USC Research & Fellowships Week
- Select rigorous academic programs of study
- Maintain high GPA
- Participate in research on / off campus
- Attend office hours and identify faculty mentors
- Take active leadership roles in student orgs
- Attend resume workshops and mock interviews
- Secure summer research funding
- Go on short-term abroad programs
  - Maymesters & Problems Without Passports

**2nd Year**

**3rd Year**
- Study abroad for a full semester or academic year
- Secure faculty letters of recommendation
- Attend AHF workshops and advising sessions to prepare for fellowship applications
- Pursue a senior thesis
- Apply for USC Scholar Distinctions
- Clarify post-graduate plans for the next 5 years
- Identify multiple options (graduate school, jobs)
- Wait patiently for award notifications and celebrate all your accomplishments!
Applicant Resources

- Fellowship Exploration Guide
- One-on-one advising sessions
- Successful essay archives from past winners
- Writing workshops with Writing Program faculty
- Personal narrative/application statement review & feedback
- Faculty committee interviews
- Annual Research and Fellowships Week
Research & Fellowships Week

RSVP at ahf.usc.edu/RFW for:

RESEARCH AND FELLOWSHIPS WEEK

October 29 - November 2, 2018

Academic Honors and Fellowships

USC Graduate School

Office of Postdoctoral Affairs

Academic Honors and Fellowships
Undergraduate Programs
Office of the Provost
Academic Honors and Fellowships
Undergraduate Programs
Office of the Provost
Merit Scholars at USC

570 Presidential, Trustee, Mork & Stamps Scholars admitted for 2018 (Top 7% of all admits)

~1900 Scholars on campus across all four years

USC University of Southern California

Academic Honors and Fellowships
Undergraduate Programs
Office of the Provost
The **Trojan Scholars Society (TSS)** brings together Mork, Presidential, Stamps and Trustee Scholars for academic, social, and cultural events. Students are encouraged to get involved with TSS!
Scholar Stories

Cooper Yerby
QUESTIONS?