Mellon Foundation

Call for Concepts

Guidelines for preparation and submission

Call for Concepts: Exploring Democracy, Environmental Justice, and Social Justice

Grantmaking area **Higher Learning**

Date **October 24, 2023**

Through its Higher Learning grantmaking area, Mellon invites humanities-grounded ideas for research and curricular projects focused on any of three topics.

Cultures of US Democracy

Projects that consider the circumstantial conditions that enable US democratic practices to flourish, including how those can best be achieved, nurtured, and sustained within an increasingly complex and fractured society.

Environmental Justice Studies

Projects that focus on specific systems (such as food, water, or health), ones that engage interrelated systems in a given community/locale, and ones that come at this topic through discrete analytical or disciplinary lenses.

Social Justice and Disciplinary Knowledge

Projects that best exemplify how specific disciplinary or interdisciplinary fields of study are equipped to reckon with issues of social justice, given the particular investigative and analytical methods they deploy.

Concept and Funding

- Humanities-grounded ideas for research or curricular projects focused on:

  > Cultures of U.S. Democracy
  > Environmental Justice Studies
  > Social Justice and Disciplinary Knowledge

- Grants of $250,000–$500,000 over a duration of up to three years

- U of M Duluth and Twin Cities campuses may each submit up to three applications

- IAS will coordinate U of M's internal review, selection, and endorsement process

- All information, deadlines, etc. on IAS website at **z.umn.edu/melloncfc**

IAS Institute for ADVANCED STUDY

z.umn.edu/melloncfc

Eligibility

Principal Investigator (PI)

- Tenure-track or tenured faculty member or dean in a program or department in the humanities or humanistic social sciences

- Based at the University of Minnesota Duluth or Twin Cities

- Architecture (historical or theoretical), Musicology, Performance Studies, and others at the U of M that might fall into a professional college, yet may incorporate humanities-based perspectives and methodologies, are included.

Not Eligible

Medical schools and centers and other health professions schools; engineering and other technology-related schools; business and management schools; arts, music, and design schools; law schools; and seminaries or seminary like institutions.

z.umn.edu/melloncfc

Overview of Process & Deadlines

Step 1: Register with the Mellon Foundation
Deadline: Thursday, November 30, 2023 at 2:00 pm CST

Step 2: Submit concept to the IAS
Deadline: Friday, January 12, 2024 at 11:59 pm CST
The IAS will select applications for submission to the Mellon Foundation and arrange for endorsement letters.

Step 3: Submit application to the Mellon Foundation
Deadline: Thursday, February 15, 2024 at 2:00 pm CST

Step 4: Submit proposal to the Mellon Foundation (if invited)
Deadline: October or November 2024
Finalists will be invited by the Mellon Foundation in Summer 2024 to develop proposals for submission to the December 2024 Mellon Board meeting.

IAS
Institute for
ADVANCED
STUDY

z.umn.edu/melloncfc

Step 1: Register with the Mellon Foundation

Deadline: November 30, 2023 at 2:00 p.m. CT p.m.

You must register with the Mellon Foundation through their Fluxx portal system by this deadline. If you do not register with the Mellon Foundation by this deadline, you will not be able to apply for this opportunity!

1. Visit **z.umn.edu/melloncfc** and scroll to Step 1 detailed instructions
2. Use the provided information in the linked document to complete Mellon's registration form
3. Follow the link provided to complete Mellon's registration form

IAS Institute for ADVANCED STUDY

z.umn.edu/melloncfc

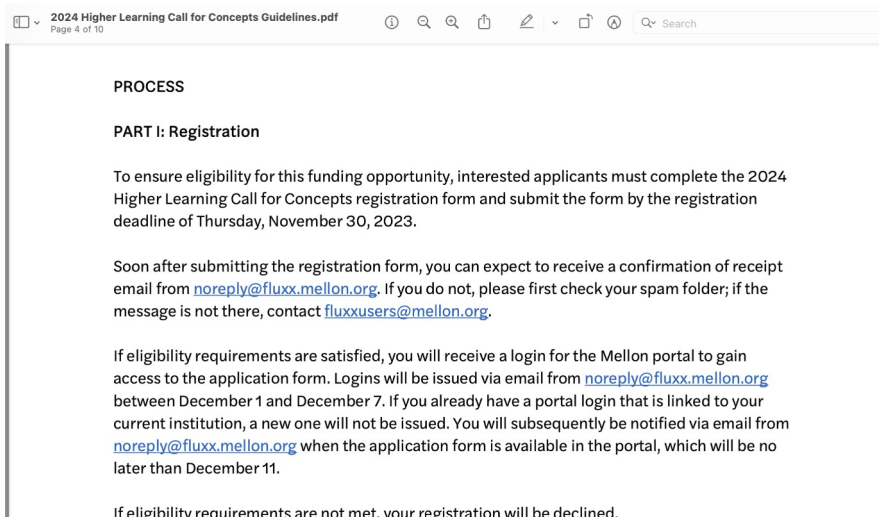# Step 1: Register with the Mellon Foundation

Deadline: November 30, 2023 at 2:00 p.m. CT p.m.

You must register with the Mellon Foundation through their Fluxx portal system. If you do not register with the Mellon Foundation by this deadline, you will not be able to apply for this opportunity.

- Information about Mellon registration can be found on page 4 in the Higher Learning Call for Concepts Guidelines Document
- Use the information provided in this document to complete the Mellon registration.

Complete Step 1: Register with Mellon

2024 Higher Learning Call for Concepts Guidelines.pdf
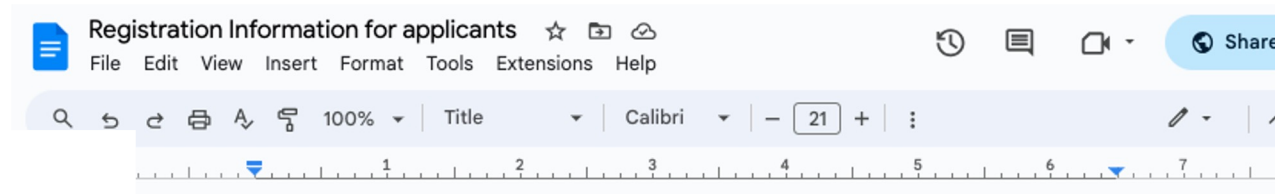Page 4 of 10

PROCESS

PART I: Registration

To ensure eligibility for this funding opportunity, interested applicants must complete the 2024 Higher Learning Call for Concepts registration form and submit the form by the registration deadline of Thursday, November 30, 2023.

Soon after submitting the registration form, you can expect to receive a confirmation of receipt email from noreply@fluxx.mellon.org. If you do not, please first check your spam folder; if the message is not there, contact fluxxusers@mellon.org.

If eligibility requirements are satisfied, you will receive a login for the Mellon portal to gain access to the application form. Logins will be issued via email from noreply@fluxx.mellon.org between December 1 and December 7. If you already have a portal login that is linked to your current institution, a new one will not be issued. You will subsequently be notified via email from noreply@fluxx.mellon.org when the application form is available in the portal, which will be no later than December 11.

If eligibility requirements are not met, your registration will be declined.

Registration Information for applicants

File Edit View Insert Format Tools Extensions Help

100% | Title | Calibri | 21

Instructions for Step 1: Register with the Mellon Foundation for the 2024 Call for Concepts

You must register with the Mellon Foundation through their Fluxx portal system by 2 p.m. CDT on Thursday, November 30. If you do not register with the Mellon Foundation by this deadline, you will not be able to apply for this opportunity.

Register here: https://mellon.fluxx.io/apply/hlcall
Information you will need for the registration form (responses marked in bold).

1. You must choose which of the three topic areas your project falls under:
   - Cultures of US Democracy
   - Environmental Justice Studies
   - Social Justice and Disciplinary Knowledge

2. Is the applicant institution a four-year, non-profit, accredited, degree-granting institution in the US that offers liberal arts education? **YES**

3. Is the applicant institution fully online? **NO**

4. Is the applicant institution a research institute or Special Focus Institution, as defined by the Carnegie Classifications (this includes medical schools and centers and other health professions schools; engineering and other technology-related schools; business and management schools; arts, music, and design schools; law schools; and seminaries or seminary-like institutions)? **NO**

5. Does the applicant institution offer multiple degrees in humanities and/or humanistic social science disciplines? **YES**

6. Does the applicant institution enroll more than 1,000 full-time, degree-seeking undergraduates? **YES**

7. Is the Principal Investigator (PI) for this application a faculty member or dean in a program or department in the humanities or humanistic social sciences, or the institution's provost? **YES** (if you cannot answer "yes" to this question, you are not eligible to apply)

8. EIN: **416007513**

Step 2: Submit Concept to IAS

Deadline: Friday, January 12, 2024 at 11:59 pm CST → via InfoReady

1. Select one of the three topic areas: Cultures of U.S. Democracy, Environmental Justice Studies, or Social Justice and Disciplinary Knowledge

2. Description of your potential project, including the rationale and specific activities it might involve. Clearly state the necessity of the planned work, its goals, potential impact, and the fitness of the institution and/or network to the proposed work. (8,000 characters, including spaces, max)

3. Estimated budget total for your project. Provide a list of the types of expenses the grant would fund – e.g., stipends, course releases, fellowships, workshops, etc. It is not necessary to provide estimates. (800 characters, including spaces, max)

A selection committee convened by the IAS will choose up to three concepts per eligible system campus (Duluth or Twin Cities) to be submitted to the Mellon Foundation.

Notification will be sent by February 1, 2024. **The IAS will arrange for the required letters of endorsement from the Provost.**

Step 2: Submit Concept to the IAS

Deadline: Friday, January 12, 2024 at 11:59 pm CST

1. Submissions should be made via InfoReady

2. Select one of the three topic areas: Cultures of U.S. Democracy, Environmental Justice Studies, or Social Justice and Disciplinary Knowledge

3. Provide an approximately 1,000-word description of your potential project, including the rationale and specific activities it might involve. The note should clearly state the necessity of the planned work, its goals, potential impact, and the fitness of the institution and/or network to the proposed work. (8,000 characters, including spaces, max)

4. Enter an estimated budget total for your project. In the description field, provide a list of the types of expenses the grant would fund – e.g., stipends, course releases, fellowships, workshops, etc. It is not necessary to provide estimates. (800 characters, including spaces, max)

A selection committee convened by the IAS will choose up to three concepts per eligible system campus (Duluth or Twin Cities) to be submitted to the Mellon Foundation. Notification will be sent by February 1, 2024. **The IAS will arrange for the required letters of endorsement from the Provost.**

Complete Step 2: Submit Concept to the IAS

IAS Institute for ADVANCED STUDY

HOME   **CALENDAR**

Submit concept

Login for University of Minnesota Users

Use your University of Minnesota user name and password to log into InfoReady.

University of Minnesota Login

Login for Other Users

If you have an account, but aren't part of University of Minnesota, enter your email address and password below to log in.

Email Address:

Email Address

Password:

Password

Forgot your password?

☐ Remember Me

Log In

Don't have an account, and [?] not a University of Minnesota user? Try registering for an account.

Register >

Step 3: Submit Application to Mellon

Deadline: February 15, 2024 at 2:00 p.m. CST

1. As necessary, revise your concept statement and draft budget justification.

2. Develop a Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion statement (approximately 250 words, no more than 2,000 characters, including spaces). Applicant institutions should have a demonstrated track record of successfully pursuing DEI efforts on their campuses. Provide a brief paragraph outlining those efforts. Optionally, you may also provide a website link.

3. Develop a Humanities statement (approximately 250 words, or no more than 2,000 characters, including spaces). Applicant institutions should have a demonstrated track record of excellence in the humanities. Provide a brief paragraph outlining those efforts. Optionally, you may also provide a website link.

4. Finalize application statement, complete application form, and submit application through the Mellon Foundation's Fluxx portal by February 15, 2024 at 2:00 p.m. CT.

IAS Institute for ADVANCED STUDY

z.umn.edu/melloncfc

Overview of Process & Deadlines

Step 1: Register with the Mellon Foundation
Deadline: Thursday, November 30, 2023 at 2:00 pm CST

Step 2: Submit concept to the IAS
Deadline: Friday, January 12, 2024 at 11:59 pm CST
The IAS will select applications for submission to the Mellon Foundation and arrange for endorsement letters.

Step 3: Submit application to the Mellon Foundation
Deadline: Thursday, February 15, 2024 at 2:00 pm CST

Step 4: Submit proposal to the Mellon Foundation
Deadline: October or November 2024
Finalists will be invited by the Mellon Foundation in Summer 2024 to develop proposals for submission to the December 2024 Mellon Board meeting.

IAS Institute for ADVANCED STUDY

z.umn.edu/melloncfc

More Information

Important Links and Resources

Find information about all Mellon and IAS deadlines, process, and links on the IAS website at **ias.umn.edu/opportunities**

Questions?

Contact IAS Grants Manager Juliet Burba: jburba@umn.edu

IAS | Institute for ADVANCED STUDY

z.umn.edu/melloncfc

Grant Development & Administration

The Institute for Advanced Study is available to support:

- Brainstorming and clarifying project ideas, vision, and timelines
- Facilitating relationships (Internal and external) to advance projects
- Developing robust project narratives and proposals that align with potential funders
- Understanding budget needs and developing budgets and budget narratives
- Navigating SPA requirements, shepherding proposals from development to submission

If awarded, the IAS can serve as an administrative home for grant-funded projects. You will gain:

- A community of interdisciplinary scholars
- Assistance working with SPA
- Staff support for financial processes, such as paying honoraria and purchasing, financial reporting, and budget management
- Staff facilitation for hiring and managing HR and payroll services
- Residential home for postdoc or other visiting scholars

IAS Institute for ADVANCED STUDY

z.umn.edu/melloncfc