

Charles M. Gray Research Fellowship

Third-year students in the Committee on Environment, Geography and Urbanization (CEGU) undergraduate program (ENST or CEGU majors) may apply for summer research support from the Charles M. Gray Research Fellowship fund, which is administered through a competitive application process by the Social Sciences Collegiate Division.

Charles Montgomery Gray was a distinguished legal historian, a winner of the Llewellyn John and Harriet Manchester Quantrell Award for Excellence in Undergraduate Teaching, and a professor in the Department of History. The Charles M. Gray Research Fellowship was created to honor his memory and to encourage in a new generation of students his devotion to learning and to thoughtful research.

Guidance for Applicants

Gray Fellows are expected to pursue original, faculty-mentored research. The research could be tied to a BA Thesis or Capstone project, or be an independent, faculty-mentored project. Fellowship applicants should seek to answer a research question of their own design by supplementing the knowledge that they gain from secondary sources with their own analysis of primary sources. These primary sources might include, but are not limited to, historical or contemporary texts, government documents, court decisions, data sets, interviews, letters, speeches, films, and the contents of archival collections.

More information about primary sources can be found at <https://guides.lib.uchicago.edu/primarysources>. In addition, students can learn about the process of developing a good research question by consulting *The Craft of Research*, 4th ed. (chapter 3, "From Topics to Questions," pp. 33–48). An electronic version can be accessed at <https://catalog.lib.uchicago.edu/vufind/Record/11349308>.

All applicants must secure a faculty supervisor for their summer research before the application deadline, and they are strongly encouraged to prepare their application in consultation with this supervisor.

Applications must be received by 5:00 PM on Friday, April 12, 2024. Fellowship recipients will be notified in early May. Questions can be directed to Tess Conway, CEGU student affairs administrator, at tconway@uchicago.edu.

Application Materials

Deadline: April 12, 2024 at 5:00 PM

The following application materials should be combined into a single PDF, in the order listed below, and [uploaded to the Box folder](#) by **5:00 PM on April 12th, 2024**. Incomplete or late applications will not be considered.

- **Cover letter** (300 words max)
This letter will briefly introduce your summer research project. In it, you should identify the question that you seek to answer through your research, briefly describe its importance and what your research will help others to understand. You should also identify your faculty supervisor in this letter.
- **Research proposal** (500–1000 words)

This document will contain a detailed description of your project and the research that you plan to undertake over the summer. It should include the following sections:

I. Project Overview

This section should introduce your research project by describing its aims and its significance, and by providing any necessary background information.

II. Methodology

This section should clarify how you propose to answer your research question. In particular, you should identify the primary sources that you intend to analyze over the summer and explain why you think that studying them can help you to answer your question. Please also indicate in this section how you plan to access your sources (e.g. via our library or the websites of other institutions, by travelling to an archive, by requesting scanned copies of materials, by purchasing them, etc.)

III. Motivation and Preparation

In this section, please describe how your prior coursework has shaped your interest in your research question. If analyzing your primary sources will require any special skills (quantitative, linguistic, etc.), then you should also describe the relevant training that you have had.

IV. Budget

Your budget should detail the anticipated costs of conducting your summer research, such as travel/living expenses, the cost of supplies, and fees associated with accessing data, archival materials, etc. The expected award amount is \$5,000.

- **Curriculum vitae**
- **Unofficial transcript**
- **Institutional Review Board (IRB) Approval** (for students who plan to conduct interviews or otherwise involve human subjects in their research):
The University is required to ensure that the rights and welfare of research participants are protected during research that is conducted under its authority. Therefore, students whose summer research will involve human subjects must inform the IRB of their plans by the time they submit their fellowship application. This process can be initiated by sending an email to the general inquiries address (sbs-irb@uchicago.edu) to find out what information the IRB requires.

As a final component of their application, students whose research involves human subjects must provide documentation that confirms that their project 1) has been reviewed and approved by the IRB; 2) has been deemed exempt from review; or 3) is currently under review. If you need any assistance with the IRB process, please contact CEGU coordinator of BA theses Professor Kindell at kindell@uchicago.edu.

Additional CEGU/ENST Undergraduate Research Funds

Additional CEGU/ENST undergraduate research and travel funds can be found on the CEGU website at <https://cegu.uchicago.edu/undergraduate-studies/cegu-major-minor/grants/>.

