

**Humanities Institute Seminar  
Fall 2025-Spring 2026 Student Fellows application**

**Description**

The practice of referring to a group of intellectual disciplines as the Humanities has its roots in the early 15<sup>th</sup> century *studia humanitatis*, a course of classical studies consisting of grammar, poetry, rhetoric and moral philosophy. In contemporary academia, the Humanities designate the study of English, History, Modern Languages and Literatures, Philosophy, Religious Studies, and Visual and Performing Arts. The Humanities Institute at Fairfield invites students interested in learning more about advanced research in these fields to apply to be a Student Fellow in the Institute's Humanities Seminar, which brings together student and faculty research fellows to share and discuss work in progress as they work to complete their individual projects.

Participation in the Humanities Institute Seminar is a one-year commitment that earns **3 credit hours** and includes a stipend up to \$500 for research expenses. **In the fall semester, Student Fellows read, think, and participate in discussions as they develop their independent project in consultation with their mentoring Faculty Fellow. The project is completed by the end of the spring semester.** If appropriate, they may also act as research assistants to their mentoring Faculty Fellow during the fall. In the spring, Student Fellows receive their 3 credits by enrolling either in HUMN 4301 Humanities Institute Seminar or an Independent Study course in a department.

In both fall and spring, Student Fellows join Faculty Fellows in Seminar meetings to discuss research ideas and faculty work in progress. **These meetings take place 4 times a semester on weekday afternoons, usually on Tuesdays 3:30-5:30 p.m., so applicants should keep this time slot open when registering for classes.** As student fellows are expected to participate in the seminar meetings, the seminar is generally not recommended for students who will be studying abroad for all or part of the year. Student Fellows also meet regularly with their faculty mentor and with one another in Student Fellows meetings.

Student projects for the seminar should involve research in one or more of the humanities subjects listed above. Interdisciplinary projects are also encouraged, but these must have a substantial humanities component.

**Positions are competitive and limited. Applications are due on Friday, March 7, 2025. Send your completed applications as a .pdf to both Julie Garbarino ([jgarbarino@fairfield.edu](mailto:jgarbarino@fairfield.edu)) and Dr. Jennifer Adair ([jadair@fairfield.edu](mailto:jadair@fairfield.edu)).**

# **Application**

## **1. Narrative (not to exceed 1 single-spaced page)**

Tell us about your interest in the humanities. This could take the form of a description of one of your favorite classes and why the subject matter was of particular interest to you, or of a particular piece of writing or work of art that has influenced you deeply and why. Please also address your interest and ability in developing and following through on an independent research project.

## **2. Writing Sample (not to exceed 8 double-spaced pages)**

Please submit a sample of your writing. This should take the form of a portion of a paper you have already written and submitted for a class (DO NOT write something specifically for this application). Select a writing sample that you believe best displays your talents as a writer and a thinker.

## **3. Letter of recommendation**

Please arrange to have a faculty member complete the recommendation form available on the [Humanities Institute webpage](#). This letter may be from a Faculty Fellow applicant with whom the student hopes to work, or any other faculty member working in the humanities. The faculty member should send the completed recommendation form directly to the Seminar Chair, **Dr. Jennifer Adair** ([jadair@fairfield.edu](mailto:jadair@fairfield.edu)) and copy **Julie Garbarino** ([jgarbarino@fairfield.edu](mailto:jgarbarino@fairfield.edu)).