

Humanities Research Center at Rice University

Fellowships Referee Guide

Please send your letter by hard copy with your signature. Reference letters must be received by the application deadline: consideration of letters received after that date cannot be guaranteed. To meet our deadline and ensure that the application enters review, you may send an email copy of the letter directly to hrc@rice.edu from your own email, but a paper letter with a signature is still required and should follow.

If you have been asked to submit a letter of reference for a fellowship applicant for the Humanities Research Center at Rice University, please consider that the most effective letters show a detailed knowledge of the candidate's past work and address directly both the importance of the proposed project and the candidate's qualifications to pursue it. General praise is less helpful to the review committee.

The HRC identifies these criteria for its **External Faculty Fellowships**

- The promise of the specific research project being proposed.
- The originality and intellectual distinction of the candidate's previous work.
- The research project's potential interest to scholars in different fields of the humanities.
- The applicant's potential to contribute to the intellectual community at Rice and in the HRC.

The HRC identified these criteria for its **Andrew W. Mellon Postdoctoral Fellowships**

- The promise of the research project, including prospects for publication or significant advances in tangible research outcomes.
- The potential appeal of the proposed course to a broad audience.
- The research project's potential interest to scholars in different fields of the humanities.
- The applicant's potential to contribute to the intellectual community at Rice and in the HRC.

The HRC identified these criteria for its **Medical Humanities Postdoctoral Fellowships**

- The promise of the research project, including prospects for publication or significant advances in tangible research outcomes.
- The research project's potential interest to a range of scholars in different fields of medical humanities. Engagement with research problems and methods across disciplinary boundaries is expected, and a background in history, philosophy, art history, media studies, or literature would be especially welcome.
- The potential appeal of the proposed course to a broad audience.
- The applicant's potential to contribute to the intellectual community at Rice and in the HRC.

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