

Call for Proposals

Due: September 1, 2021

INTERSEMINARS

interdisciplinary graduate education in the arts and humanities

Humanities Research Institute
University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

Tenure-stream faculty in the humanities and arts, have you ever wanted to:

- team teach** an interdisciplinary graduate seminar with other faculty?
- transform a reading group into a **funded interdisciplinary research project** with other faculty and graduate students?
- collaborate with other faculty and graduate students on a **conference, exhibition, or public performance** in your research area?

Responding to the challenges of sustaining interdisciplinary research and teaching in the arts and humanities, the **INTERSEMINARS** initiative provides funding and administrative infrastructure for collaborative teaching, sustained interdisciplinary inquiry, and public- and community-facing research in the humanities and arts. It aims to build communities of inquiry around emerging research directions and to promote the value of heterogeneity and access in graduate education in the humanities and arts. The Interseminars initiative encourages projects that center students from populations historically underrepresented in graduate education and that advance diverse ideas, perspectives, and experiences.

Each year from 2022-2025, Interseminars will fund an 18-month interdisciplinary project that will provide course releases and summer funding for 2-3 faculty coordinators, up to six graduate fellowships, and programming funds for a public- and/or community-facing culminating event (such as a conference, exhibit, or performance). We invite proposals for projects that will take place during 2022-23.

Eligibility

Proposals must include a minimum of two (and up to three) tenure-stream faculty from the Urbana-Champaign campus representing at least two different disciplines or interdisciplines in the arts and humanities. Faculty members may participate in only one proposal each. Preference will be given to projects that include faculty conveners from at least two different academic units.

Once a project is selected, the faculty conveners and two members of the Interseminars Steering Committee will use an open call to select a cohort of up to six graduate students currently enrolled in participating arts and humanities PhD and MFA programs at the University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign. The selection process will be facilitated by the HRI Interseminars Project Coordinator and will be completed by December 15, 2021.

Interseminars Project Structure

Each Interseminars project will be required to adhere to the following timeline:

- **Summer I (2022):** The Interseminar project collective (faculty and graduate students) meets for one week in workshop format to establish shared interests and approaches; build a sense of intellectual community; develop plans for a semester-long course; and set shared goals for summer research.
- **Fall I (2022):** Interseminar project collectives (both faculty and graduate students) are required to participate in a credit-bearing semester-long seminar on interdisciplinarity and collaborative

research in the humanities and arts, and related topics. The design and teaching of this course will be shared by the faculty conveners, Interseminars Steering Committee, and Project Coordinator. Graduate Fellows will enroll for credit.

- **Spring (2023):** Faculty conveners team-teach their theme-based proposed seminar, which is taken for credit by Interseminar graduate fellows. A budget for the project's culminating (Fall 2023) event will be required by March 1.
- **Summer II (2023):** The Interseminar project collective meets for (at least) one week in workshop format to pursue either (a) development of research for publication or other forms of dissemination based on the Interseminar course; or (b) development of pedagogical models for interdisciplinary teaching based on their Interseminars project. Plans for the fall culminating event should be finalized by July 1.
- **Fall II (2023):** The Interseminar project collective presents a public- and/or community-facing collaborative culminating event or project (such as an exhibition, a performance, a symposium, or other event).

Award Details

Each Interseminars award will provide:

Faculty support:

- Opportunities for up to three tenure-stream faculty to help design and participate in an Interseminars methods seminar in Fall 2022 and to design and team-teach their Interseminars theme-based course in Spring 2023. To enable participation in the Interseminars courses, each faculty member will be released from one course in fall and one course in spring. The department providing each release will receive \$21,000 per course (up to a total of \$42,000) to help offset expenses incurred as a result of the faculty member's participation in the Interseminars initiative. In the case of faculty holding a dual percentage (joint) appointment, the distribution of funds will be determined upon award.
- Research funds of \$8,000 per summer for each faculty convener (for a total of \$16,000 per faculty member).

Graduate student support:

- Fellowships of \$25,000 for up to six graduate students in a participating arts and humanities degree program (MFA or PhD) for the 2022-2023 academic year.*
- A summer fellowship of \$5,000 per graduate student fellow per summer for two years (2022 and 2023).
- Research funds of \$2,000 per student (which can be used for travel, books, and other research-related expenses).

Project programming funds:

- Up to \$10,000 for visiting speakers and programming in conjunction with the proposed Interseminar course in Spring 2023.
- Up to \$20,000 for the culminating event (such as an exhibition, performance, or conference) in Fall 2023.

* These fellowships include a waiver of full tuition, service fee, AFMA fee, and library fee. In addition, the University provides payment of the health service fee, basic dental and vision coverage, and partial payment of the graduate student health insurance fee per semester. A graduate student may not hold any other appointment (fellowship, teaching assistantship, research assistantship, or hourly positions) during the term they are being supported by an Interseminars fellowship.

Proposal Requirements

1. Proposal narrative (no more than 2000 words). The narrative should provide: description of the proposed topic; intellectual rationale for the proposed project focus; explanation of how the project draws on faculty expertise; plan for recruiting and mentoring historically underrepresented graduate students; provisional course description for Spring interdisciplinary graduate seminar (including course rubric); and a plan for how and when project impact will be documented. ([Please use template.](#))
2. 2-page c.v. for each faculty convener.
3. A draft of a call for applications for graduate student fellows for the proposed project (1 page). Call should center graduate students from historically underrepresented groups.
4. Approval from the executive officer(s) of each faculty convener's department/academic unit(s) or the appropriate budgetary decisionmaker from the faculty convener's unit. ([Please use form.](#)) The executive officer agrees to: release the faculty member from one course in Fall 2022 and one course in Spring 2023; offer the proposed course for credit under the proposed rubric(s); and acknowledge that the department will receive funds that will help offset expenses incurred as a result of the faculty member's participation in the Interseminars initiative.

Proposal Review Process and Criteria

Proposals will undergo peer review by the Interseminars Steering Committee. Proposals will be evaluated according to the following criteria: intellectual significance; clarity of the proposed project design; contribution to interdisciplinarity; commitment to diversity, including plan for recruiting and mentoring underrepresented graduate students; feasibility; and the potential impact on the future of interdisciplinary graduate education.

Submission and Award Notification

Completed proposals must be submitted as a single pdf file online by **September 1, 2021**. Notification of awards will be made in by October 15, 2021.

Reporting, Archiving, and Assessment

Each project's faculty conveners will be required to submit a mid-project report of activities by January 2023 and a final project report of activities by December 2023. These reports are not only pragmatic documents regarding the project's progress, but also intellectual resources, functioning as an important archive for future interdisciplinary initiatives in graduate education.

In consultation with the Project Coordinator and Interseminars Steering Committee, faculty conveners will participate in developing evaluations of the broader Interseminars experience within two months of the end of the Interseminars project.

Contact

More information about the Interseminars initiative is available at <https://hri.illinois.edu/fellowships-research-support/interseminars>. Please direct questions to the Project Coordinator, Alaina Pincus, at apincus2@illinois.edu.