

Schaeffer Fellowship Program in Creative Non-Fiction University of California, Irvine

The Schaeffer Fellowships in Creative Non-Fiction are designed to support exceptionally talented students interested in pursuing professional writing within the rigorous context of a Ph.D. program at the University of California, Irvine. Schaeffer Fellowships are available in either the Department of English or the Department of History.

Schaeffer Fellowships are competitive awards and carry a one-year stipend of \$20,000. Students have the possibility of a second, dissertation-year fellowship. Ideal candidates for such fellowships include students with experience in journalism or other forms of non-fiction prose who are committed to writing a non-traditional dissertation intended to appeal to a broad, non-specialist public. Schaeffer Fellows are selected by a faculty committee.

Schaeffer Fellowship in English

Doctoral candidates choosing the creative nonfiction emphasis in the Department of English will, beyond the normal course of study for a Ph.D., take a series of writing-workshops that focus on nonfiction genres. They will also be given much freer range for designing a dissertation—their projects can depart radically from the traditional dissertation forms. The creative nonfiction dissertation is expected to embody and display systematic investigation and research, but its form can be creative rather than scholarly. Its aims might include being accessible beyond the academy. A student in the Emphasis could write a dissertation that would itself be a biography, autobiography, memoir, narrative or history. It could as well be an analysis of works by other writers in any of the various genres of nonfiction.

Exemplary models for creative nonfiction have been offered by writers such as John Hersey, Joseph Mitchell, Gay Talese, John McPhee, Joan Didion, Tom Wolfe, Truman Capote and Norman Mailer. Students trained and encouraged by the liberties of the UCI English Department's creative nonfiction emphasis certainly should aim to achieve work on this level. Better yet, they should aim to produce original and superb writing of a kind we have not yet seen.

To be considered for the Schaeffer Fellowship, applicants should apply for admission to the Ph.D. program in the English Department according to normal procedures. In addition, applicants must also submit the following:

- ◆ An essay of no more than 500 words in which you describe your prior interest in and experience in creative non-fiction and discuss the area in which you might work on the dissertation.
- ◆ An additional writing sample consisting of an example of previous writing in the field of creative non-fiction (15 to 25 pages total). Please note: this sample is in addition to the writing sample required for admission into the graduate program.
- ◆ A cover letter in which you announce your intention to apply for the fellowship, give the title of the sample that you are submitting to the fellowship committee, and outline your possible areas of Ph.D. study, including the intended focus of a possible dissertation project in creative non-fiction.

For questions about applying to the Ph.D. program in English, please contact Kathleen Edens, Graduate Administrator, Program in English, at kedens@uci.edu or (949) 824-5323.

Please note: If you are interested in applying for a Schaeffer Fellowship, a supplemental application must accompany your application to be admitted to the Ph.D. program in one of the departments offering Schaeffer Fellowships. If you have questions about the application process for the Ph.D. program or the Schaeffer Fellowship, please contact the department directly.

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