

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 History

Doctoral candidates awarded Schaeffer Fellowships in the Department of History will, beyond the normal course of study for a Ph.D., take a series of writing-workshops that focus on nonfiction genres—or supplement some workshop courses with independent studies with faculty members associated with creative non-fiction work. They will also be expected (and encouraged) to carry out dissertation projects that pay particular attention to stylistic issues and the use of language, experiment with traditional academic forms, and/or are designed to be accessible to and engage non-academic as well as academic audiences.

Exemplary models for creative nonfiction within the discipline of history have been offered by writers such as Jonathan Spence, Natalie Davis, John Demos, Orlando Figes, Martha Hodes, and Linda Gordon.

To be considered for the Schaeffer Fellowship, applicants should apply for admission to the Ph.D. program in the History Department according to normal procedures. In addition, applicants must 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 nonfiction (15 to 25 pages total). Please note: this sample is in addition to the writing sample required for admission into the graduate program. Please also note that a series of shorter pieces, totaling 15 to 25 pages (blog entries, for example, or short pieces for magazines or newsletters) can be submitted in lieu of one 15 to 25 page piece).
- ◆ 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 History, please contact Alicia Sanchez, Graduate Administrator, Program in History, asanchez@uci.edu or 949-824-5891.

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.

UNIVERSITY of
CALIFORNIA
IRVINE