

FELLOWSHIPS APPLICATION MATERIALS ORGANIZER

for

Wheaton College Undergraduates

Advance planning is key to managing a fellowships application process alongside your regular obligations and activities. The nomination process usually begins in the semester *preceding* the national deadline for an award, or 2-5 months in advance. Whether or not nomination is required, it is advisable that you always plan to begin your application preparation in the semester ahead of the official application due date, which means working over the summer on applications with early fall deadlines.

This PDF can be used as an exercise in **honest self-reflection on your pursuits and achievements inside and outside the classroom, on campus and off; your educational, professional, and life goals; your values; and the motivations behind your aspirations**. Since most selective award competitions, as well as graduate school applications, typically require candidates to write about some or all of these things in an application, the work you put into this worksheet will pay off when you are faced with other applications in the future. The information you gather for this worksheet will also help any professors advise you on a range of appropriate competitive awards to pursue, including those you may not have considered.

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Letters of Recommendation

Indicate four persons whom you could ask to write letters of recommendation in support of your fellowship application(s):

1) Full Name	Title or Position
Dept./Professional Affiliation	
Phone	E-mail
2) Full Name	Title or Position
Dept./Professional Affiliation	
Phone	E-mail
3) Full Name	Title or Position
Dept./Professional Affiliation	
Phone	E-mail
4) Full Name	Title or Position
Dept./Professional Affiliation	
Phone	E-mail

Academic Information

What is the heart of your academic interests and what has contributed to your choice of this/these area(s) of focus? Discuss your choice of major(s) and minor(s). Include some reflection on the role of particular courses, projects, readings, professors, as well as non-academic experiences, in your decision to pursue your chosen field(s) of study.

What are your principal academic/creative interests beyond your major(s)/minor(s)? In what way(s) do you pursue these interests?

What languages other than English do you know? How did you acquire this knowledge and how do you maintain your proficiency?

List merit-based awards, honors, and special recognitions received while in college or for college. *Freshmen and sophomores may include most significant high-school honors*. Please do not abbreviate award names. Indicate **a)** award selection criteria or purpose; **b)** sponsor of award or honor; **c)** date received and/or duration (e.g., Spring 2011, Fall 2011-Spring 2012, 2011-15).

Describe any **independent study, research, internships, teaching assistantships, workshop leadership**, etc., in which you have participated. Indicate **a)** when and where the activity occurred; **b)** duration of your participation; **c)** basis of selection/how you obtained the position; **d)** who supervised you; **e)** your role or duties; **f)** significance of experience in your academic and personal development, or what you gained; **g)** presentation or publication of work.

What has been your most meaningful intellectual/creative accomplishment at Wheaton so far and why? If you have not yet had such an experience, what do you hope to accomplish in your studies beyond excellent grades in coursework?

If you have studied, worked or traveled abroad (including family trips), when and where did you go and why did you choose that destination? How long were you abroad? Discuss the impact of the international experience on your studies, personal growth, world outlook, post-graduate plans, and career goals. If you will study abroad in the future, indicate when, where, and why.

Please explain the circumstances of any semester in which your academic performance did not reflect your ability.

Has there been any interruption in your education since high school? When and how long were you away from schooling; what did you do during this time?

What are your post-baccalaureate plans? For example, if you plan to go to graduate school, indicate what you plan to study and what degree you will seek; also indicate where you'd most like to study, if you know this now. What profession/career do you aspire to and what do you wish to accomplish in this realm? If you plan to seek employment rather than pursue graduate education, what kind of work do you hope to do and why is this important to you?

Extra-Curricular & Service Activities

For all activities below, list **in reverse chronological order with period and frequency of participation**. Also indicate **a)** any leadership roles; **b)** the importance of each activity to your personal and intellectual development; **c)** your most significant accomplishment(s) or contribution(s) for each endeavor; include how you demonstrated initiative or creativity.

Campus activities—e.g., student government, OCO, clubs, committees, political and advocacy organizations, athletics, creative/performing arts.

Off-campus activities—e.g., community/volunteer work (specify whether or not work associated with a Wheaton group or office), leadership training, civic engagement, etc. In addition to the information requested above, indicate the full name and nature of the group or activity, how you became involved, and your supervisor.

Reflect further on *one recent* particularly satisfying public service or volunteer activity in which you participated.

Reflect further on *one recent* specific experience or activity in which you demonstrated your leadership capacity and made a positive difference on campus or in the wider community.

Describe any special talents you have that are not mentioned elsewhere.

What are your hobbies or special interests? How long have you been engaged in these pursuits and how often do you engage in them now?

SUMMER PLANS:

If not indicated elsewhere, please describe your plans for the *upcoming* summer.

EDUCATIONAL EXPENSES

Indicate *merit* awards as well as *need-based* financial aid; specify source (e.g., a Wheaton Scholarship, federal loan, etc.) and duration of funding (e.g., one year, one-time, four-year award, etc.). *It's not necessary to provide amounts.* Mention if your work has influenced your choice of jobs and/or your level of participation in activities.

FAMILY

Where did you grow up? Is there an unusual family circumstance that you would like to mention? What is the educational level of your parents and what are their occupations or professions? Are you a first-generation American or first-generation college student? Did your *parents* immigrate to the U.S.? If so, when and from what country(ies) did they come to the U.S.? How do you maintain a relationship with your/your parents' country of origin?

Personal Essay Suggested Questions

Please reflect on each of the topics below. You may address each question separately or present your responses in the format of a single essay. Confine your responses to a maximum of two single-spaced pages. It's probably best to write it in a text document (like Word or a txt application) and then copy and paste it into this form.

- a) How do you define your most notable character traits; what has influenced them, e.g., ideas, beliefs, experiences
- b) What causes you joy
- c) What causes you great sorrow or makes you outraged
- d) Three things you value in others
- e) An experience of failure or great disappointment (beyond middle school), how you handled it, and what impact the experience had on you going forward
- f) A recent experience that has taken you outside of your comfort zone and how that experience has affected your worldview and self-perception
- g) What compels/inspires you to pursue your chosen educational and career goals; what problems/issues/needs in your field or society do you wish to make a difference in through your work
- h) Besides previously stated goals, what you would do, either once or as a lifetime pursuit, if there were no limits or obstacles in your way—and why.

Personal Essay

[Empty text box for writing a personal essay]

Personal Essay (continued)