Harris Fellowship - Application Package 2017

Owing to the generous establishment of the Harold and Gwenneth Harris Endowment for Medical Humanities, we are excited to offer 2-4 small Fellowships in the Health and Medical Humanities, as broadly understood. In each case the successful applicant will be known as the Harris Fellow. The fellowship is open to all students at the University of Sydney, in any Faculty, and at either undergraduate or postgraduate level. Applications from groups of students who would like to collaborate on a project are strongly encouraged.

Applicants may apply for any sum up to a maximum of $3000, for any project that can be understood as within the scope of the health and medical humanities. Yes, this is a very broad scope! For examples of projects refer to Examples of Projects below. The amount and number of award(s) is dependent on the quality of the applications received.

**Application Deadline:** Sunday, 22nd of October 2017 (midnight)

**Eligibility Requirements**

To be eligible applicants must be:

a) 18 years old or over

b) A current student at the University of Sydney

c) Applying for the fellowship to fund a project that is separate from normal coursework or existing research required for completion of a degree. However the fellowship grant can be used to extend or apply outcomes from a coursework project. It is highly unlikely that the fellowship will be awarded for conference travel.

**Application Process**

To be considered for this fellowship, all applicants must supply the following documents/statements to the Coordinator of Medical Humanities by Sunday, 22nd of October 2017 (midnight):

1) A letter of introduction (no more than one page) introducing the applicant. Please note that extenuating circumstances (i.e. social or financial disadvantage) that may have impeded the applicant’s capacity to undertake this or related research in the past will be taken into consideration and should (where relevant) be detailed in this letter.

2) A 200-400 word synopsis of the project for which funding is being sought. Applicants must include a timeline or, at the very least, an estimated date of project completion.

3) Curriculum Vitae detailing any relevant experience, publications and awards previously obtained by the applicant. This should not be a long document!

4) A 200-400 word statement detailing how the proposed research project will enhance the field of Health and Medical Humanities or contribute to health practice.

5) A detailed budget outlining how the applicant intends to use the fellowship grant if successful. Please include a justification for each budget item.
6) A nominated outcome the project is intended to produce, e.g. 6 meetings of a history of medicine reading group, a performance of music within a hospital setting, etc. In the absence of a nominated outcome, successful applicants will be required to submit a report that provides evidence of their use of the funds and a self-assessment of the project.

*Potential applicants are encouraged to contact the Coordinator for Health and Medical Humanities, Dr Claire Hooker, claire.hooker@sydney.edu.au, to discuss their application prior to submission.*

**Things you can spend the Fellowship grant on:**

- **Materials** - e.g. for making artworks
- **Experts** - who can act as facilitators, teachers, supporters (e.g. camera or lighting crew, an artist who will hold live drawing classes for health students)
- **Training** - students may wish to undertake training in a relevant area
- **Research** - costs such as digital copying, access
- **Travel** - students may need to travel to access resources or join others
- **Time** - students may wish to apply for a base 'salary' of up to $500 per week

All application documents should be emailed to the Coordinator of Medical Humanities, Dr Claire Hooker, at claire.hooker@sydney.edu.au.

Hardcopy submissions will also be accepted but are not necessary. Mail to: Claire Hooker, Sydney Health Ethics, K25, Sydney University, NSW, 2006.

**Examples of Projects**

Projects could consider (or utilize as method) any creative mediums, including poetry, drama, creative writing, sculpture, and film-making, to name but a few. Your project outcome would in this case be the artwork you produce.

**Examples:** healthcare students could produce artworks that explore their own experiences of practice or patient experiences of illness. You could undertake a body mapping experience with a group of your peers, or produce a performance work about anxiety on the job. Healthcare students might have an art practice they wish to develop as a critical part of humanistic healthcare. They could apply to access classes or training in this area or to undertake training in how to connect people with disabilities to art and culture.

You could explore the influence of poverty on health in Puccini’s La Bohème, the cultural significance of organ preservation in ancient Egypt, narratives of autism in modern fiction or the philosophical meaning of disease in a probabilistic world. Your project could consider deploying the insights of history, sociology, literary studies, anthropology, cultural studies, or alternate humanities disciplines as they relate to health, medicine and health care. Project outcomes could include academic essays or high quality journalistic articles - you can use this opportunity to get published.

**Examples:** You could write reviews of books and identify where to publish them, or critiques of healthcare systems. You could curate digital resources on an area of interest, accompanied by written commentary (the library can help with providing a web space for such an output so that it becomes
available via the internet). You could host a reading group for fellow students in the history of medicine or the philosophy of science or some other area of interest. Numerous historical projects including the curation of small exhibitions in 1-2 cabinets making use of hospital and university collections and archives are available.

Do you care about refugees, climate change, workplace culture or security, our relationship to landscape, the extent of loneliness, the qualities and coherence of our communities, the fragility of democracy, how to imagine a different future? Or perhaps by the radical futures opened by advances in genetic technologies, neuroenhancements, AI, nanotechnology? You may be already working with a group or organisation in these areas, or would like to be, and this collaboration could be featured on your application: you can use this opportunity to approach people or to do some work in an area about which you are passionate. Outputs might be collections of stories, photographs, your own observations of work, methods that engage others in activism and advocacy.

**Examples:** Allowing time for ethics approvals as needed, applicants could undertake small research projects that collect narratives about community and health or loneliness, collect and curate images or photographs of landscape, or provide records of community based initiatives aimed at health. Applicants could undertake training in activism or advocacy oriented to health issues.

Applicants are warned to be careful about undertaking projects that need ethics approval (though this may be sought and should be clarified in the project timeline) or that intend working with vulnerable populations. Applications may be rejected as a result of ethical concerns. However, applicants who have experience or a track record of working with such groups are strongly encouraged to apply.

You can use the resources or methods of any humanities subject.

---

All application documents should be emailed to the Coordinator of Medical Humanities, Dr Claire Hooker, at claire.hooker@sydney.edu.au.

Hardcopy submissions will also be accepted but are not necessary. Mail to: Claire Hooker, Sydney Health Ethics, K25, Sydney University, NSW, 2006.