



July 5, 2024

Open-Topic Senior Fellowship

Call for Applications (selecting for 2025-2029 term)

Deadline: Friday, October 4, 2024

Access application information and link to digital application on the IRH fellowships webpage: <https://irh.wisc.edu/irh-fellowships/> (scroll down to “internal fellowships”).

Senior fellowships at the Institute for Research in the Humanities (IRH), funded by the College of Letters & Science, are for tenured faculty members in the College who are engaged in original and innovative research in the humanities. Seven of these senior fellowships are designated for any projects in the humanities, and one senior fellowship is awarded for a project on race, ethnicity, and/or indigeneity.

This year, the IRH will be holding a competition for one open-topic senior fellowship with four-year terms beginning in 2025-2026 (term: 2025-2029).

Senior fellowships are designed to encourage ambitious and far-reaching research in the humanities that can contribute to and benefit from sustained intellectual conversation with fellows through engaging in multi-disciplinary seminars and informal discussions throughout the academic year. Senior fellows represent the intellectual core of the IRH, helping to create dynamic synergies among the fellows and on behalf of the humanities on campus. Their active participation in the life of the IRH provides vital leadership and continuity.

Individual tenured faculty members are encouraged to apply. Departmental nominations are accepted but do not necessarily increase the chances of success. Departments should encourage all eligible faculty to apply without consideration of the number of applicants in each unit.

Award Description

Senior fellowships have a four-year term with **four semesters** of research leave to be taken in residence at the IRH during this period. Flexibility in how leave time is taken during the four years is allowed: e.g., 50% research leave/50% teaching each semester; one semester of research leave/one semester of full teaching each year; one year of research leave/one year of full-time teaching; etc. However, the start date of the fellowship may not be deferred for any reason, so we urge fellows to arrange their

fellowship in ways mutually agreeable to themselves and their departments. Senior fellows attend IRH seminars and meetings for the full academic year for the four-year term, regardless of how their teaching leave is distributed.

Senior fellows are expected to participate in the intellectual life of the IRH by attending the weekly Monday afternoon seminar (3:30 - 5:00 pm), utilizing their IRH office on a regular basis, and giving a seminar presentation at the IRH. Fellows are also encouraged to join the weekly afternoon teas, and other IRH events as time and interest permit. Please consult the IRH's website (irh.wisc.edu) for more information about other fellowships and activities. Classes, office hours, and other regular obligations should not be scheduled during the Monday seminar over the 4-year course of the fellowship appointment.

Senior fellows also serve as an advisory committee to the IRH director. In this capacity, they serve on IRH selection committees each year, meet with the director for advice and consultation on IRH policies and activities, and otherwise serve as vitally important advisors to the director through informal exchanges.

Senior fellows give at least one presentation of their research at an IRH seminar during their terms. Toward the end of their terms, senior fellows may be invited to organize a Burdick-Vary Symposium or initiate other significant scholarly events that foster intellectual dialogue in the humanities across campus. The symposium or event series can be related to the senior fellow's research or can be aimed more broadly to address vital issues in the humanities of interest to a wide audience on campus and/or in the Madison community.

Senior fellows should plan to be in the Madison area for regular participation in IRH events over the duration of the four-year term; short trips for research, lectures, and conferences are allowed but weekly attendance at Monday seminars and regular presence in their IRH office throughout the academic year is expected. At the time of their appointment, senior fellows should make a preliminary determination of how they will distribute their four full semesters of research leave over the four-year period. Changes to this distribution need to be negotiated with the Director and the departmental chair.

After the completion of their fellowship, senior fellows must be on the UW-Madison payroll for one academic year following their terms.

Eligibility

Eligible candidates for the senior fellowship must be tenured faculty members at UW-Madison and must have completed at least two years on the UW-Madison payroll to be eligible to apply. They should be engaged in broad-ranging and exciting research with promise of significance for the humanities beyond their immediate specialty. They should be leaders in their fields of expertise with a national or international reputation for their contributions to the humanities. The IRH welcomes candidates at the rank of

associate professor as well as full professor and looks especially for candidates with past records of successful research and proposed projects that demonstrate impressive intellectual scope, range, ambition, and significance for the humanities.

Departments need to be aware that faculty members appointed to senior fellowships are unlikely to be replaced in their home departments, though departments may apply to their appropriate deans for replacement funding. Senior fellows should not be assigned duties (teaching or other) that would interfere with participation in regularly scheduled IRH seminars on Mondays, 3:30 - 5:00 pm. Senior fellows should also be relieved of departmental and university service while on research leave at the IRH.

Department chairs of all applicants need to provide in the application packet a letter attesting to the department's willingness to allow the applicant to hold a senior fellowship at the IRH.

NOTE: UW-Madison humanities faculty not in the College of Letters & Science are eligible for senior fellowships at the IRH provided their school or college is willing to allow 4 years at full salary with 50% release in teaching and from service. A letter from the relevant dean indicating this should be included with the application.

Criteria for Selection

The IRH looks for exciting proposals demonstrating coherence and compelling intellectual scope, innovative ambition, and significance for the humanities. We aim to open the senior fellowships to a wide array of research in the humanities, and we are committed to diversity of all kinds. Criteria for selection include the quality of the research proposal and a "track record" of prior research and professional standing appropriate to rank. **The proposal, which will be read by scholars most of whom are not in the candidate's field, should be written jargon-free and in an accessible manner.** The selection of senior fellows will take into account the balance of departments, fields, disciplines, perspectives, methodologies, historical periods, geographical regions, and interdisciplinary experience.

Application Materials

- **Project proposal.** Up to 2,500 words. Proposals should make a strong case for the originality and significance of the project; how the research will be undertaken; what specific product(s) will result; and what the specific plan is for completion of the research. A chapter outline should be included for book projects within the 2,500-word limit. Proposals should focus on a single research project, although candidates may indicate where the project fits into their past and future research program.
- **Project bibliography.** Publications (not your own) relevant to the project, up to 2 single-spaced pages.

- Curriculum Vitae. CV should clearly delineate work in press, submitted, under contract, and in progress. Indicate the status of work in progress. Include page numbers of publications and forthcoming work.
- Digital copy of 1 recent representative publication. Article or book chapter. (Do not upload a whole book or journal volume. Make sure to include front matter for scanned book chapters.)
- Two letters of recommendation. Each must address your past contributions to the humanities and the quality and significance of the proposed research. Please note that *all* letters of recommendation should come from colleagues *outside* of UW–Madison. The letters must be submitted online via Interfolio uploads (see below for more details.) Letters for a senior fellowship should not come from the applicant’s degree-granting institution (e.g., dissertation advisor), but should provide evidence for the applicant’s impact on and reputation in their field.
- Brief letter from the department chair. Must attest to the department’s willingness to release you from teaching and service during the 4-year term (however the award is taken).
- Completed open-topic senior fellow Interfolio questionnaire. Note: required entries in the Interfolio application “form” will include a reduced 100-word project abstract (separate from your uploaded project proposal); please prepare this shortened abstract before beginning the Interfolio application. Abstracts over 100 words will be cut off in review materials submitted to selection committee.

Application Submission

- Applicants must access the online application through Interfolio. The Interfolio application link is found in the senior fellowships section of the IRH fellowships webpage: <https://irh.wisc.edu/irh-fellowships/> (scroll down to the expandable “internal fellowships” menu).
- You must complete your online application and upload all required materials to Interfolio by 11:59 pm Eastern Time (**10:59 pm Central Time**) on Friday, **October 4, 2024** (recommendation letters must also be uploaded by your recommenders by 11:59pm ET/10:59pm CT on 10/04/24). Interfolio operates out of Washington, D.C. and deadlines are set at Eastern Time, NOT Central Time. Deadline is **10:59 pm** if you are in Madison.
- You do not need to complete your application in a single session. You may start it, save changes, log out, and return to it later. (To see your saved applications, go to the Interfolio dashboard and click the “Deliveries” button; un-submitted applications will appear as “in-progress.”)
- You *can* submit your application early while letters of recommendation are still pending (in fact, we encourage you to do so); letters of recommendation can be submitted even after you submit your portion, but they must be uploaded to Interfolio by the deadline (10:59 pm CT/11:59 pm ET).
- Please press the “**submit**” button on your portion of the application as soon as possible. Even after submission, you may return to an application repeatedly to

make edits and changes until 10:59 pm CT/11:59 pm ET on October 4th. (Again, to see an application you have already submitted, go to the Interfolio dashboard and click the "Deliveries" button; submitted applications will appear as "sent deliveries.") **The selection committee will not review or read any of your submitted materials until October 4th.**

Letters of Recommendation

- Applications require **two** letters of recommendation from colleagues outside UW–Madison.
- To identify your letter writers and request letters of recommendation from them within the Interfolio system: Open the application page. Find the category "Confidential Letter of Recommendation or Evaluation" and click the "Add File" button on the far right. On the next screen, select the tab labeled "**Request a Recommendation**," then click the "**Request**" button. On the following screen, enter the first and last name of the recommender along with their email address. Click the "Send Request" button to complete the process.
- Interfolio will then contact the two recommenders directly with instructions on how to submit the letters. Please do this early so that Interfolio has time to contact your recommenders and they have time to review Interfolio's submission instructions. **Letters must be submitted through Interfolio; letters emailed directly to the IRH will not be accepted.**
- The deadline for letter writers to submit letters is also **11:59 pm ET/10:59 pm CT** on Friday, **October 4, 2024**. Letters submitted after midnight will not be attached to your application. IRH does not send reminder emails to writers, so check Interfolio early and often to make sure your letters are submitted ahead of the deadline.

Deadlines

- Application materials submitted through Interfolio (by applicant): **Friday, October 4, 2024.**
- Letters of recommendation uploaded to Interfolio (by recommenders): **Friday, October 4, 2024.**
- Notifications from IRH: **Early January 2025.**

Inquiries

- For substantive questions about projects and proposals, contact Steven Nadler, IRH Director (smnadler@wisc.edu; 608-262-8151).
- For all other questions about this fellowship and the application process, contact Katie Apsey, IRH Associate Director (apsey@wisc.edu; 608-262-3855).
- For help using Interfolio, please contact Interfolio's help desk (help@interfolio.com; 877-997-8807).