

THE RAVEN FELLOWSHIP

2023 FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

How do I submit my application?

E-mail your application materials as a single document attachment in .pdf format to the Raven Fellowship Chair, Melissa Abel, at mma8cg@virginia.edu by the deadline of Sunday, March 5th, 2023 at 11:59. The document should be titled “Fellowship_Lastname-Firstname”. Emails should have the subject line “Raven Fellowship Application- Lastname, Firstname”. Your one or two confidential letters of reference should be submitted directly by the recommenders to the same e-mail address by the same deadline with the subject line “Raven Fellowship Recommendation- Lastname, Firstname” (your last name and first name) by the same time and date.

How will I know that my application has been received?

Completed applications will be acknowledged by email.

What happens after I submit my application?

A committee, composed of both student and faculty Raven Society members, will read all applications and convene to select 10–12 finalists to interview in March. After all finalists have completed interviews, the committee will reconvene to select final award recipients. Please be aware that you will need to be able to respond to the invitation to interview promptly in order to continue in the application process.

How do I submit confidential letters of recommendation?

Ask the faculty member to e-mail the letter to the address mma8cg@virginia.edu with the subject line mentioned above.

I'm in my final year of studies, may I apply?

Yes, any currently enrolled student at the University of Virginia may apply for funding.

Do I need to be a member of the Raven Society to apply?

No, any enrolled student at the University of Virginia may apply.

I am a member of the Raven Society, may I apply?

Yes, members of the Raven Society may apply for funding. They will receive no special consideration.

I received a Raven Fellowship in a previous year, may I apply again?

Yes, previous winners may apply again. They will receive no special consideration.

I am working on a research project with one or more partners. May we apply jointly?

Yes, we welcome joint applications, especially those that partner graduate and undergraduate applicants. The cover page (the portion of the application asking for general information) should list names and contact information for all applicants. Additionally, there should be a CV, unofficial

transcript, and up to two letters of recommendation for each member of the group. Please note that we can only offer \$2,500 total to each group.

May I travel to a country for which the State Department has issued a travel warning?

No. The Raven Fellowship cannot be used to fund research in countries for which the State Department has issued a travel warning. All international projects must be cleared with the International Studies Office (www.virginia.edu/iso) before funding can be distributed.

May I apply for other awards and other sources of funding?

Yes, the Raven Society heartily encourages all applicants to seek other sources of funding for their projects, as we can only offer up to \$2,500 per project, and can only fund a limited number of projects a year. Please indicate if you have applied for other potential sources of funding in your application.

May I apply for funding to attend a conference?

No, the Fellowship funds original research only.

May I apply for funding to take a class?

No, the Fellowship funds original research only.

If my project involves human subjects, do I need IRB approval?

Yes, all projects that involve human subjects require IRB approval prior to the distribution of funds.

May I submit a letter of recommendation from a faculty member from another university?

At least one letter of recommendation must be from the UVa faculty member who will supervise your work and who has signed off on your budget. The optional, second letter of recommendation may come from a faculty member at another university familiar with the proposed project.

Can I receive feedback on why my application was rejected?

Due to the high volume of applications and the confidential nature of the committee's discussions, we unfortunately are unable to provide feedback on unsuccessful applications.

What does a successful project look like?

Raven Fellowships support all types of research. Successful applications typically have detailed budgets (with other potential sources of funding either in place or in progress), clear descriptions of research activities to be undertaken and their relationship to broader project goals, and purposeful summaries of intended project outcomes. Successful projects in recent years have reflected novel, interdisciplinary, or creative work. Funded projects may include travel or international components.

If I am awarded a fellowship, what responsibilities do I have to the Raven Society?

The Raven Society asks that all winners present their research to interested colleagues and members of the Raven Society. The fellowship recipient will determine in conjunction with the Raven Fellowships Chair the method of presentation. Recipients will also be asked to submit an abstract to the Raven Society and may be offered the opportunity to present their work at a Raven-designated research symposium.

What is the Coleman Fellowship?

The Raven Fellowship winner who is found to have the most promise and potential in their project will be denominated as the Coleman Fellowship winner.

How can I find out more?

Please contact Melissa Abel, Raven Society Fellowship Chair (mma8cg@virginia.edu).