Bucknell University Presidential Fellowship Program

New Project Descriptions for Presidential Fellows are now being accepted for 2015-2016.

The Presidential Fellows Program offers faculty and staff an opportunity to engage talented and motivated students in challenging work projects with all financial expenses provided by the Program. The Program is sponsored by the Office of Financial Aid, and coordinated by the director, Sally Koutsoliotas.

The goals of the Presidential Fellows Program are:

• to recruit highly talented, self-motivated students to Bucknell.
• to provide intellectually stimulating work experiences and opportunities for academic development with remuneration for Fellows through mentor relationships with faculty and administrative advisors.
• to provide members of the campus community with talented student assistants for research, special projects, and positions of increasing responsibility.

Each year, Presidential Fellowships are offered to 1-2% of applicants to Bucknell. Selection is based on academic merit and achievement. In almost all cases, students who accept the Presidential Fellowship remain as Fellows for all four years, although their project may change from year-to-year. The time of admission is normally the only opportunity for a student to enter the program.

You are invited to develop a Presidential Fellowship project for the 2015-2016 academic year. Your position will be offered to both incoming and returning Fellows.

Important Information for Presidential Fellow Supervisors

1. The Office of Financial Aid will cover the full costs of the Fellow’s allowance. At present, the maximum allowance is $1800 per academic year. No funding is required from the department or the program affiliated with the Fellow.
2. Fellows are paid at an hourly rate and expected to commit 6 - 8 hours per week to their fellowship project.
3. Requests for Fellows are welcome from all departments, offices, and programs.
4. Fellowship position descriptions will be received any time from now until May 7. Matching of Fellows with Fellowship positions will begin in the summer and continue into the first two weeks of the Fall semester.
5. The nature of the Fellowship encourages Fellows to participate in creative and interesting work. While routine duties may be part of the project, they must be balanced with more challenging responsibilities.
6. Please think carefully about the amount of time your project will require and how that time falls during the semester. If your project requires many hours over a short period, it may not be well-suited to the Presidential Fellows Program. Fellows will expect to work steadily each week over the course of the year.
7. Mentors will be responsible for authorizing the Presidential Fellows’ on-line time-slips every two weeks throughout the academic year, enabling Fellows to be paid in a timely manner.
8. IMPORTANT: Mentors must have time to meet with the Fellow to provide adequate direction, instruction, feedback, and encouragement, especially at the beginning of the Fellowship. The mentoring relationship of supervisor to Fellow is a key aspect of this program.
To Request a Presidential Fellow
Requests for a Presidential Fellow can be made by filling in the form at: http://www.eg.bucknell.edu/~koutsolts/PFP
Please submit your requests by Thursday, May 7, 2015.

This request form will ask for the following information.

A. Project Mentor’s Name.
   Include department/office/program, e-mail, phone; summer phone/e-mail if different.

B. Title of Fellowship Project.

C. Description of Project or Position. *(The description should be two or three paragraphs.)*
   Please include the following elements:
   • Each Fellowship should have an interesting, well-defined assignment requiring 6 - 8 hours per week. The project should be of a long-term nature and intellectually challenging to the Fellow.  
   **NOTE:** Typical work-study jobs would not be appropriate; neither would strictly clerical work.  
   It is not appropriate to simply ‘cut-and-paste’ a Work/Study job description.
   • Make clear the type of work involved (lab/library research, field work, program organization, etc.)
   • Are special skills or prerequisites required or helpful (Web or computer skills, interest in working with the public, etc.)?
   • The work situation of the fellowship position may involve flexible hours (such as students doing library or laboratory research including time on evenings or weekends) or scheduled hours (for example, Tuesdays and Fridays 1-4 p.m.). Please make clear your expectations for the Fellow in your request (flexible or scheduled).
   • Anything else you think would define the type of position you have in mind.
   • *There are generally more positions available than we have Fellows to fill them.* The more appealing the position description, the more likely you are to attract interested Fellows.

D. Number of Fellows requested.
   How many Fellows are needed for this project? If more than one, please consider seriously the expectations of close and involved interaction between the mentor and each Fellow.

E. Are first-year Fellows eligible or even preferred?
   It is anticipated that many Fellowship positions will last for the full four years of a student’s collegiate career. If your project or program is of more limited scope (one year or less), please consult with the Program Director.

Matching of Fellows with Fellowship Positions *(a modification from past practice)*
Incoming Presidential Fellows are provided with a list of the available Fellowship positions in June. They are encouraged to contact their top choices to learn more about the project and then provide a list of preferred positions. However, the assignment of Fellows will mostly occur in the first week of the Fall semester. During Orientation Week, a special Presidential Fellows Reception will be scheduled, where Fellows and potential mentors will have a chance to meet.

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