Robert Lee Ellis Civic Fellowship Application

Each year, the Robert Lee Ellis Civic Fellowship (administered by the Carlson Leadership & Public Service Center), offers financial support to three incoming undergraduate students who are committed to community engagement, social responsibility, and personal leadership development throughout their four-year University of Washington experience.

ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

- Financial need as determined by the Financial Aid Office. Most students fill this requirement by filing a FAFSA or WAFSA for the current academic year. We also accept applications from those who are not eligible to file for federal or state financial aid, but can document financial need.

- Incoming student at the UW Seattle campus, with an anticipated graduation date in in 2023 (or beyond).

- Committed to weaving public service and civic leadership development throughout your academic study at the University of Washington. (See detailed expectations outlined below.)

FINANCIAL SUPPORT

Ellis Fellows receive $2,000 per year during their first year; $3000 per year during their second year and third years at the University; and $4000 per year during their fourth year at the university. ($12,000 total during the four-year fellowship.) We work individually with students to determine the best disbursal pattern for these funds.

EXPECTATIONS FOR ELLIS FELLOWS

All Four Years

1. Complete a minimum of 20 hours of service with a community organization each quarter you are enrolled at the UW—often done as part of a service-learning course or a structured community-based internship program.

2. Integrate service with your academic experiences by seeking out service-learning or community based leadership courses during your first and second years. (Exact credit hours and courses will vary; you’ll receive advising and support in order to meet this requirement.)

3. Participate in events including: quarterly Ellis Fellowship social events, the Martin Luther King Jr. Day of Service in January, Spring Celebration of Service & Leadership; and the Ellis Capstone event (dates and other details announced at the beginning of each academic year).

4. Meet a minimum of twice a year with Carlson Center staff to discuss your progress through fellowship requirements.

Third and Fourth Year

5. Identify a faculty and community mentor during your third year at the UW; as part of the process of identifying these mentors, you will conduct informational interviews with community and academic representatives in your anticipated career field.

6. During your fourth year as an Ellis Fellow, you will enact a personal service-based capstone project with support from Carlson Center advisors, community members, and a faculty mentors. Regular capstone project updates and evidence of progress will be expected throughout the fourth year, culminating in a reflective capstone project presentation in the spring that completes your transition from Ellis Civic Fellow to Ellis Civic Leader.

Applications are due by 11:59pm on Thursday, September 19th.
Submit all information as one document, saved with your last name as the file name. Materials should be submitted as an attachment, with “Ellis Fellowship Application” as the email subject to engage@uw.edu.
Interviews will take place on Monday, October 7th from 5:30-7:30PM in Mary Gates Hall, Suite 171. All applicants should hold the interview time in their calendars. There is only one interview time and we are unable to make accommodations for schedule conflicts. Applicants will receive notification of whether they have been selected for an interview by noon on Friday, October 4th.

By submitting an application for the Ellis Civic Fellowship, you agree to the following if selected:

1) I will make a four-year commitment to serving in the community.

2) Regardless of my chosen major, I will infuse my academic career with community-based learning and leadership development opportunities. This may include specific courses recommended by Carlson Center staff.

3) I will maintain involvement in the Ellis Civic Fellows program—including regular advising appointments, quarterly socials, and special events.

INFORMATION TO INCLUDE IN YOUR APPLICATION
Name (First, Last)
Student #
Email Address
Phone Number
Anticipated area of study
Anticipated graduation year
Hometown (City, State; we want to know where you consider home—not your technical address)

Please list and briefly describe any significant service, volunteer, leadership, paid work roles, honors or awards, including the dates that the role was held or award was received.
You may choose to complete this section as a bullet-point list or by submitting a resume that highlights these experiences.
EXAMPLE: *Stewardship Club Vice President (September 2018-June 2019): As Stewardship Club Vice President, I scheduled club meetings, occasionally filled in for the president as meeting facilitator, helped to organize an environmental sustainability fair, coordinated two guest speakers, and worked with the club treasurer to plan the club budget and place food orders.

Please list any other scholarships or fellowships—including the annual award amount—that you will receive as a UW student. **This information will be used as one factor among many during the selection process. The Ellis Fellowship was created to fund students who have a commitment to public service AND unmet financial need.**
For example: Gates Millennium Scholarship (average award is $5000 per year), Washington State Opportunity Scholarship ($2500-$7500), College Bound Scholarship (approximately $6000 per year), Local Rotary Club Scholarship ($1000, first year only), etc.

ESSAY RESPONSES
The Fellowship selection committee will pay particular attention to these personal statements.

1) Tell us about one social issue that has touched/impacted you personally. How have you been of service and/or used your leadership skills to address this social issue’s impact on your community? *Please keep your response to less than 400 words.

2) Describe aspects of your background/identity that contribute to your commitment to public service. What personal strengths and experiences do you draw on for inspiration as you lead and serve? (Your response may draw upon your answer to the question above.) *Please keep your response to less than 400 words.

3) Beyond financial support, how might the Ellis Fellowship help you accomplish your goals? We would love to hear about your short term goals (i.e., your first year at the UW) and your long term career goals in this essay response. *Please keep your response to less than 300 words.

If there are any special considerations or additional information you feel necessary for the committee to assess your application, please include it at the end of your application document (separate from your essay answers).

PLEASE EMAIL ENGAGE@UW.EDU WITH ANY QUESTIONS.