

New York Six Liberal Arts Consortium

Upstate-Global Collective
Student Summer Research Fellowship Program
2017 Research Positions

Please review this list of research positions available and select and rank your top three (you can apply for only one or two, if desired). You'll be asked to identify your preferences and provide a brief (500 words or less) statement of interest for each when you submit your application online.

Please review the full program description prior to selecting research positions:

<http://newyork6.org/UGCSummerStudentResearchFellowship>. Note that preference will be given to students from outside the sponsoring faculty member's home institution.

Position#: 1

Position Title: Understanding the Attitudes and Beliefs that affect the Choice to Consume Meat versus a Plant-Based Diet in Older Adults

UGC Project Title: Care and Support in Aging Communities, with a focus on end of life care

Description: The project will explore the factors that influence food and dietary choices in older adults. Specifically, we will examine what attitudes and beliefs affect the choice to consume meat versus a plant-based diet. The overall goal will be to gain a better understanding of these beliefs to begin to build interventions to decrease meat consumption and increase plant-based diets in older adults.

Responsibilities: The student researcher will conduct extensive literature reviews on this topic, help to formulate a research question and plan, be involved in choosing and/or developing measurement tools to use in the study, and put together an IRB application. There will be opportunities to work on additional aspects of this project (as well as related studies) and possibly co-author conference presentations and manuscripts resulting from their summer research.

Qualifications: The ideal candidate will be outgoing, responsible, work independently, and possess excellent critical thinking skills. The candidate must be familiar with Psych Info and Medline, proficient in reading scholarly research articles, possess excellent problem solving and organizational skills. Coursework in statistics (passing with a B or better) and upper level coursework in research methods and Psychology is preferred. Familiarity with SPSS is desired.

IRB Approval Needed? Yes

Faculty Mentor: Jamie Bodenlos

Institution: Hobart and William Smith Colleges

Proposed Start Date: 6/12/2017 **Proposed End Date:** 7/21/2017 **# Weeks:** 6

Estimated Stipend Amount: \$2,700.00

Position#: 2

Position Title: Detention Centers and the Rights of Migrants in EU today

UGC Project Title: Refugees on the Move: The Global Refugee Crisis and Local Refugee Lives

Description: This project will explore newly created detention centers in certain EU countries in response to the increasing refugee flow over the last two years. The focus will be on the living conditions of migrants who managed to enter EU and are currently being kept in detention centers, tent encampments etc. in Italy, Greece, and Hungary. Outsourcing and privatization of migrant detention and its impact on the rights of the migrants will also be explored.

Responsibilities: The student research assistant will investigate existing literature on the topic, and collect data via exploring variety of sources (e.g. human rights organizations' reports, European Court of Human Rights' relevant decisions, news reports, etc.).

Qualifications: Desired qualifications for candidates include having strong reading and writing skills and a demonstrated ability to think critically and analytically. Preferred candidates must have an interest in human rights and issues related to securitization of immigration. Knowledge of one of the following languages would be helpful, but not necessary: Italian, French, Greek, or Hungarian.

IRB Approval Needed? N/A

Faculty Mentor: Çiğdem Çıdam

Institution: Union College

Proposed Start Date: TBD **Proposed End Date:** TBD **# Weeks:** 6

Estimated Stipend Amount: \$2,700.00

Position#: 3

Position Title: News Coverage for Urban Marginalization

UGC Project Title: Marginalized Communities and Urban Centers

Description: A Research Fellow will conduct a comparative analysis of news media coverage of issues affecting marginalized urban communities in South Asia and in New York State's "refugee corridor." The primary goal will be to use the tools of content and discourse analysis to identify patterns of representation that shape the visibility/invisibility of key questions, issues, and voices connected with the theme of the larger "Marginalized Communities and Urban Centers" project. Results of the study will be shared with the public via the Weave (www.weavenews.org), an independent media project focused on underreported stories.

Responsibilities: The Research Fellow will identify specific mainstream and alternative news outlets in each of the two regions under study; conduct a detailed search of existing news coverage; and work with the faculty member to organize and construct a critical analysis of the results.

Qualifications: The Research Fellow must be familiar with Microsoft Excel and must have a strong ability to conduct effective online searches, whether using standard search engines or within news databases. Some training in media studies, discourse analysis, and/or qualitative research methods is desirable. Student will need to liaise with Libraries and Information Technology staff at St. Lawrence University.

IRB Approval Needed? No

Faculty Mentor: John Collins

Institution: St. Lawrence University

Proposed Start Date: 5/29/2017 **Proposed End Date:** 7/14/2017 **# Weeks:** 7
Estimated Stipend Amount: \$3,150.00

Position#: 4

Position Title: Utica Refugees Summer Research Associates (3 positions)

UGC Project Title: Refugees on the Move: The Global Refugee Crisis and Local Refugee Lives

Description: Summer Research Associates will spend 10 weeks implementing two surveys to residents of Utica, New York's refugee community. The goal of the survey project is better understand what ties refugees to Utica. There are many theories but little objective data on the factors that encourage refugees to stay in Utica versus move to another location in the United States. In addition, the survey will include questions aimed at discerning the financial literacy of first and second generation immigrants.

Responsibilities: Associates will first train on survey methods and design. They will be responsible to arrange for and administer the surveys throughout the summer. When they are not meeting clients, students will clean and code the completed surveys. Each student will write a report on the survey process and results.

Qualifications: The ideal candidates will have experience and desire to interact with people of diverse backgrounds in an urban environment. Given our ambitious goals, candidates must be willing to work hard while working. They must be willing to implement the surveys exactly as directed and with an assigned partner. The ability to speak Arabic, Burmese, Karen, Somali or Bosnian would be a plus.

IRB Approval Needed? Yes

Faculty Mentor: Paul Hagstrom (Chaise La Dousa, or Erol Balkan)

Institution: Hamilton College

Proposed Start Date: 5/22/2017 **Proposed End Date:** 7/28/2017 **# Weeks:** 10

Estimated Stipend Amount: \$4,500.00

Position#: 7

Position Title: Syrian Refugee Identity Expression

UGC Project Title: Refugees on the Move: The Global Refugee Crisis and Local Refugee Lives (3 positions)

Description: Student researcher will explore the cultural and political expression of identity among Syrian refugees in the contemporary media, primarily through written sources. Depending on interest and ability, the researcher may use sources from the Middle East and European refugee communities. The goal of the project is to understand the sense of cultural and political identity among Syrians forced to leave their homeland, how this may have changed recently, and in what ways it is performed, memorialized, or otherwise expressed.

Responsibilities: Research will focus on finding, organizing, and analyzing works by Syrian from a number of sources, including newsprint, interviews, plays/short stories, etc. The student may explore and develop this project further based on their own individual interests and expertise.

Qualifications: Successful candidates will have basic competency in reading Arabic at a third-year level, and preferably also a European language. Some interest in and knowledge of conflicts in the Middle East region and the capacity to work independently and to collect and analyze relevant data

is a must. Experience working with primary source documents preferred.

IRB Approval Needed? N/A

Faculty Mentor: Noor Khan

Institution: Colgate University

Proposed Start Date: TBD **Proposed End Date:** TBD **# Weeks:** 6-8

Estimated Stipend Amount: \$2,700 - \$3,600

Position#: 8

Position Title: The Syrian Community in Geneva, NY: Past and Present

UGC Project Title: Refugees on the Move: The Global Refugee Crisis and Local Refugee Lives (3 positions)

Description: Geneva NY, a city of roughly 16,000 inhabitants in the Finger Lakes region of upstate NY, has been home to a community of Syrians from the turn of the twentieth century. The research project will proceed on two fronts. On one hand, the student will delineate the main characteristics of the existing Syrian community, including its size, composition, and main community institutions. Secondly, the student will conduct research on the impact of the current refugee crisis on the Syrian community in Geneva, identifying the existence and extent of links between the local community and Syria, and describing the incorporation challenges newcomers face in terms of language acquisition, residential and employment patterns, access to health care, and impact on cultural and religious practices in Geneva NY.

Responsibilities: The student research assistant will explore archival materials on the history of the Syrian community in Geneva (historical documents, existing interviews, media coverage on the community throughout the decades); conduct interviews with community representatives that explore immigration history, incorporation in, and impact on various aspects of local community life; and conduct fieldwork such as attending public events related to the life of the community, such as celebrations or relevant local government meetings.

Qualifications: Passed an undergraduate social science methodology course (such as Research Methods) with a B+ or better; has preferably taken at least one course in the social sciences or the humanities substantially focusing on immigrants and immigration.

IRB Approval Needed? Yes

Faculty Mentor: Ervin B. Kosta

Institution: Hobart and William Smith Colleges

Proposed Start Date: 6/12/2017 **Proposed End Date:** 7/31/2017 **# Weeks:** 7

Estimated Stipend Amount: \$3,150.00

Position#: 9

Position Title: C.A.R.E. Summer Fellowship (multiple positions available)

UGC Project Title: Care and Support in Aging Communities, with a focus on end of life care

Description: C.A.R.E. (Community Action, Research, & Education) fellows will spend 8 weeks engaged in a full-time (approximately 30 hours per week) structured educational program involving community service and research. The focus of the Summer Fellowship Program will be Understanding End of Life Care and students from NY6 schools will be assigned to work at the Joan Nicole Prince Home in Scotia, NY (www.joannicoleprincehome.org), Gateway house of Peace in

Ballston, Spa, NY (<http://www.gatewayhouseofpeace.org/>), Mary's Haven in Saratoga, NY (<http://www.maryshaven.org/>) or Abraham House in Utica, NY (<http://theabrahamhouse.org/>). (Note: placement at certain homes may require a car).

Goals:

The program is designed to provide students with a full-time, residential experience focused on understanding the challenges of providing care to terminally ill members of the community. The 8-week fellowship will challenge students by having them work alongside community members in one of upstate New York's comfort care "homes for the dying." Upon the completion of this community based learning program, students will be able to:

- Develop and implement a research project to meet an agency-identified need.
- Identify the unique challenges and burdens placed on caregivers;
- Recognize the importance of psychosocial support in end-of-life care;
- Demonstrate compassionate, non-judgmental, empathetic care that preserves a resident's dignity at the end-of-life;
- Have an increased comfort communicating with terminally ill residents and their family members.
- Identify symptom management approaches for conditions common at the end of life including pain, dementia, anxiety, nausea, edema (swelling), and dyspnea (difficulty breathing); and
- Serve as a member of an interdisciplinary health care team model and recognize the value provided from different healthcare professionals.

Responsibilities: C.A.R.E. Fellows will be performing a variety of activities during the program, including providing direct bedside care to 2 terminally ill residents. Fellows will:

- Identify a research question and related project addressing a problem identified by the home's staff or board of directors (i.e. needs assessment, literature review, grant/research proposal etc.).
- Work as a member of a caregiver team that includes other C.A.R.E. fellows, staff at the home, and volunteers from the community;
- Serve as surrogate family members responsible for resident care needs including assisting with activities of daily living (toileting, feeding, taking medications etc.);
- Observe hospice care team members and resident care staff;
- Offer emotional support to residents, family members and friends visiting residents;
- Provide resident care narratives and carefully document care decisions;
- Maintain a reflective journal based on field notes taken after each shift; and
- Complete 10 experiential learning modules with readings and clinical vignettes that require written narratives reflecting on various topics including caregiving experiences, communication, cultural competency, and issues surrounding death and dying.

Benefits to participants:

- 250+ hours of clinical experience (direct patient contact);
- Education and training in palliative care leading to "Certificate of Completion";
- Opportunity to observe hospice care team members and resident care staff;
- Opportunity to prepare and present a community based research project; and
- \$3,600 (or \$450 per week for 8 weeks) to replace earnings from summer employment; room and board are not covered, but rooms are available for rent on NY6 campuses.

Qualifications: Position Requirements:

- Must be a student from one of the NY6 schools (Colgate University, Hamilton College, Hobart & William Smith Colleges, St. Lawrence University, Skidmore College, Union College) and from the class of 2018 or 2019 who can commit to the full (30 hrs/week) program from June 12th-August 5th;
- Must complete a 2-day volunteer training program
- Must agree to complete 10 on-line learning modules and develop and implement a research project(s) that will benefit the home;
- Should have an interest in healthcare or social work (exceptions considered) but could be from any academic discipline;
- Must have an interest in working with people during the last few weeks or months of their lives and be able to carry out resident care duties;
- Must complete application, letter of intent, and submit reference letters (instruction form attached by deadline);
- Must complete an interview and visit/tour of the home before committing;
- Must make full-time commitment and be able to work daytime, night, evening, and weekend shifts that could begin as early as 6:50 am and end as late as 11:00 pm (schedule will vary week to week). Therefore, applicants cannot have other commitments (i.e. additional summer research, classes, employment elsewhere etc.).

*Please note that finalists will be asked to submit a supplemental application providing additional information.

IRB Approval Needed? N/A

Faculty Mentor: Carol Weisse (Union) or Crystal Moore (Skidmore)

Institution: Union College or Skidmore College

Proposed Start Date: TBD **Proposed End Date:** TBD **# Weeks:** 8

Estimated Stipend Amount: \$3,600

Position#: 10

Position Title: Effectiveness of the Boycott, Divestment, and Sanctions movement in seeking justice for Palestinian refugees through delegitimization of Israel

UGC Project Title: Immigration and Human Rights: Border Issues to the North, South, and Beyond

Description: Building on the successes of the anti-Apartheid movement, The Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions (BDS) movement was formed in 2005 to levy international pressure on behalf of Palestinians against Israel. The movement seeks historic justice for Palestinians in general, and more specifically, for the exercise of the Right of Return of Palestinian refugees to Israel. The BDS uses various methods to delegitimize Israeli actions but it has become very controversial in the West, with many calling it anti-Semitic and a veiled attempt at destroying Israel by allowing Palestinian refugees to return to it. This research project aims to assess the extent to which the BDS movement has been effective in seeking justice for Palestinians, with a specific focus on the experience of Palestinian refugees. The research will also explore the extent to which the movement seeks to delegitimize the state of Israel in the pursuit of justice for Palestinians. Students interested in the Middle East with a focus on the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, international relations, and/or questions of international legitimacy, will find this research project particularly interesting.

Responsibilities: The student research assistance will review public polling data, public statement of leaders, literature on the BDS movement, historical documents and be expected to conduct literature reviews, discourse analysis, synthesis of polling data, and review transcript from interviews with public officials and scholars.

Qualifications: Passed an undergraduate social science methodology course (such as Research Methods) with a B+ or better; has preferably taken at least one course in the social sciences or the humanities focused on the Middle East.

IRB Approval Needed? No

Faculty Mentor: Ronnie Olesker

Institution: St. Lawrence University

Proposed Start Date: 6/12/2017 **Proposed End Date:** 7/31/2017 **# Weeks:** 7

Estimated Stipend Amount: \$3,150.00

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