

Seaver College Student Fellowship for Equity and Social Justice

The Seaver College Student Fellowship for Equity and Social Justice will be awarded each year to rising junior or senior students (greater than 64 units completed) who have demonstrated a deep and abiding commitment to issues of equity and social justice in the Seaver College, Pepperdine, or broader external community. Up to two fellowships will be awarded.

As part of the application process, students will propose a project that has the potential to result in lasting positive change at Seaver College in the areas of belonging, inclusion, equity, and social justice. Projects should have a clear focus and achievable outcomes. If the project depends on funding, a proposed budget and possible sources of funding, whether inside or outside the university, should be identified. Each fellow will receive a scholarship in the amount of \$7,500 during the fellowship year, \$3,750 in each semester. Awarding of the spring semester scholarship is dependent upon satisfactory progress on the fellow's project during the fall semester.

Prior to submission, the proposal of the student applicant should be approved by a faculty member or administrator who has agreed to serve as the student's sponsor, working with the student through the entirety of the project. Students granted the fellowship will enroll in a directed study, special topics, internship/fieldwork, or research course (minimum of two units) split across both semesters of the fellowship year. The class will be designed and supervised by their faculty or administrative sponsor. Throughout the fellowship year, each fellow will be mentored by their sponsor and will be expected to devote significant time to completing the project and developing a plan for its implementation.

As part of the fellowship, awardees and their faculty mentors will attend the annual W. David Baird Distinguished Lecture Series lecture focused on a topic related to belonging, diversity, equity, inclusion, or social justice. After the lecture, each fellow and their sponsors will attend a dinner and discussion with the keynote speaker. Both fellows will give a presentation of their project to a segment of the Seaver community in April of the fellowship year.

Faculty/administrative mentors will receive a \$2,000 stipend for their support of each fellow.

Preference will be given to student applicants who meet the following criteria:

- 3.0 GPA or higher. Students with lower GPAs may apply, but should briefly discuss their academic performance and suitability to receive a fellowship in their cover letter.
- A well-written and thoughtful project proposal that addresses an area of perceived need in the Seaver College community.
- A compelling letter of support from their faculty mentor.
- A high likelihood that the project will be completed within a one-year time frame.
- A personal history that indicates a sincere commitment to issues of equity, belonging, and social justice within the Seaver community.

Student applications will include:

- Cover letter detailing their commitment to equity, belonging, and social justice issues within the Seaver community
- A project proposal (3-4 pages maximum length) that describes the project, the potential effect of the project within the Seaver community, a timeline for completion, and plans for sustaining the project beyond the implementation year.

Applications will be reviewed by: The Senior Associate Dean, the Associate Dean for Student and Faculty Development, the chairperson of the Seaver College Diversity Council, and two community members, one faculty and one staff member, selected by the Seaver Diversity Council annually. The decisions of the application review committee will be reviewed and affirmed by the Dean of Seaver College.

All applications for a fellowship award are due on March 25 of the preceding academic year. Submit your application by emailing it to seaver.dean@pepperdine.edu. Award decisions will be announced by April 30.