

# THE MAHATMA GANDHI FELLOWSHIP

**Deadline: February 29, 2008**

## **Purpose**

The Mahatma Gandhi Fellowship was established in 1998 by UNC students. Its purpose is to annually provide two qualified students with a scholarship of up to \$3,000 to conduct a self-designed project addressing South Asians anywhere in the **eight South Asian countries** during the summer in a unique and original way.

## **Vision**

The Mahatma Gandhi Fellowship seeks to raise awareness of issues pertinent to South Asia as well as the diverse cultures and populations of the region, while providing interested and driven students from qualifying universities with the opportunity to be educated in these areas through first-hand experience and gain an understanding of the region which they could not otherwise receive through conventional education.

## **Eligibility**

The scholarship is open to any full-time, returning undergraduate or graduate student from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

## **Selection Criteria**

To be chosen as a Mahatma Gandhi Fellow, applicants must have a strong academic record as well as creativity and imagination. Applicants will be judged based on the organization, comprehensibility, and feasibility of their proposals along with their ability to display

- ❖ leadership potential in conjunction with social activism
- ❖ an enthusiasm for self-directed learning
- ❖ an undeniable sense of commitment vis-à-vis the proposed project

Students will be judged through their applications, recommendations and a personal interview.

## **Selection Process**

- (1) Students should turn in their applications to the Sangam office, Carolina Union room 3508F, at UNC-CH by 5:00pm on February 29<sup>th</sup>, 2008.
- (2) Selected applicants will then be invited for subsequent interviews with a Fellowship Selection Committee.
- (3) Chosen fellows will be contacted within two weeks of the interview process.

## **Fellows Selection and Obligations**

The Fellowship Selection Committee will make the final decision as to which students are to be named the Mahatma Gandhi Fellows. The Mahatma Gandhi Co-Chairs then determine the scholarship amount received by the fellows. The actual scholarship amount may be less or more than the applicant's budgeted amount. The scholarship amount is to be used for appropriate expenses such as travel, food, and living expenses as well as funds needed for the project.

At the end of the project, Fellows are expected to fulfill several obligations.

- Fellows must return any unexpended portion of their scholarship to the Mahatma Gandhi Fellowship.
- During the fall semester after the completion of their project, Fellows are required to submit to the Mahatma Gandhi Fellowship a written report of their experiences along with photographic documentation in print and as well as on disk if possible.
- Fellows will also be required to write an article about their experiences in Diaspora, the newsletter issued by Sangam, the South Asian Awareness organization that the Mahatma Gandhi Fellowship is under.
- Fellows are also required to give two presentations in concordance with the Mahatma Gandhi Fellowship during the course of the school year.
- After the school year, past fellows are expected to inform the Mahatma Gandhi Fellowship of any change of address so as to facilitate communication between both parties at any given time in the future if need arises.

If you have read the aforementioned conditions set by the Mahatma Gandhi Fellowship and agree to abide by them if selected as a Fellow, please sign below.

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

# **THE FELLOWSHIP APPLICATION**

*Note:* All applicants must submit ONE original paper copy of the entire application to the Sangam Office by 5:00 pm on February 29<sup>th</sup>, 2008. They must also email the sections I, II, III, and IV to Parin Desai at **parin@unc.edu**.

All material should be typed and double-spaced in font size 12 Times New Roman. Be sure that your name should not be on any application material aside from Parts I, IV, and V. Parts II and III should display your UNC PID#.

## **Part I: Biographical Information**

1. Name
2. UNC PID#
3. Current Mailing Address and Phone
4. Permanent Mailing Address and Phone
5. Email Address
6. Emergency Contact Information
7. Rewrite and copy: "I certify the information provided in this application is true and correct to the best of my knowledge"

## **Part II: Internship Proposal (2000 words)**

1. Describe your topic of study in detail. What do you hope to accomplish? How will your pursuit of this topic enhance intellectual and personal growth?
2. Explain the impact your project will have on the South Asian community.
3. If you are not proficient in the native language(s) of the area you plan to travel, how will you overcome communication barriers?
4. Briefly assess the current political situation in the area you intend to intern in.
5. What contact(s) do you have (here and at your internship site) to help you accomplish your internship?
6. Provide an itinerary of your proposed travel. Include expected means of travel and lodging.
7. Estimate and itemize the costs required to complete your proposal's objectives.
8. What vaccinations, if any, are required to travel to your intended destination? (You may contact your Student Health Centers or local Public Health Departments for this information).

## **Part III: Personal Essay (500 words)**

Explain how your personality traits will help make your project a success.

## **Part IV: Résumé**

Attach your current personal résumé listing work experience, campus and community activities and honors/awards received in high school and college.

## **Part V: Transcript**

Please attach a copy of your current University transcript

**Part VI: Recommendation Letters**

Attach two recommendation letters in separate sealed envelopes. The recommendations must be from two individuals who are able to

- Assess the applicant's potential as a Mahatma Gandhi Fellow
- Discuss the feasibility, practicality and advantages of the applicant's proposal.