

# THE MAHATMA GANDHI FELLOWSHIP



## 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, unique service project addressing South Asians anywhere in India, Bangladesh, the Maldives, or Bhutan during the summer.

## 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. The Fellowship provides interested and driven students with the opportunity to gain first-hand experiences and an understanding of the region.

## 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 be creative, and must possess an inherent interest in South Asian issues and a strong academic record. Applicants will be judged based on the organization, comprehensibility, and feasibility of their proposals along with their ability to display the following:

- ❖ 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 26<sup>th</sup>, 2010.
- (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.

## Selection Decision and Obligations

The Fellowship Selection Committee will make the final decision as to which students are to be named the 2010 Mahatma Gandhi Fellows. The Mahatma Gandhi Co-Chairs will 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 to fund the project itself.

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 a written report of their experiences along with photographic documentation in print and on disk if possible.
- ❖ During the fall semester after completion of the project, fellows must present their project at a local school, UNC, or community event.
- ❖ Fellows are required to update a weekly blog during the duration of time that they spend performing their project. The blog must include their experiences from that week regarding the service project, the local interactions that were made, and personal feedback.
- ❖ Fellows will also be required to write an article about their experiences in Diaspora, the newsletter issued by Sangam.
- ❖ 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 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.

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

# THE MAHATMA GANDHI FELLOWSHIP APPLICATION (2010)

*Note:* All applicants must submit **ONE original paper copy** of the entire application to the Sangam Office by 5:00 pm on February 26<sup>th</sup>, 2010.

Applicants must also email the sections I, II, III, IV, and V to Sonia Bhandari at sbhandar@email.unc.edu or Aravind Chandra at caravind@email.unc.edu.

All material should be typed and double-spaced in font size 12, Times New Roman style, with standard one-inch margins.

Be sure that your name and PID are on all parts of the application.

## 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: Project Proposal (2000 words, must address all seven questions below)

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. If you are not proficient in the native language(s) of the area you plan to travel, how will you overcome communication barriers?
3. Briefly assess the current political situation in the area you plan to conduct your project.
4. What contact(s) do you have (here and at your internship site) to help you accomplish your project?

5. Provide an itinerary of your proposed travel. Include expected means of travel and lodging.
6. Estimate and itemize the costs required to complete your proposal's objectives.
7. What vaccinations, if any, are required to travel to your intended destination? (You may contact the Student Health Center or local Public Health Departments for this information).

### Part III: Personal Essay (1000 words)

Explain the impact your project will have on the South Asian community. Also, when you return, how would you work to increase awareness on campus and in the local community about South Asia and also your particular project?

### Part IV: Shorter Responses (300 words each)

1. What are some of the challenges that you may face while abroad, and how do you feel you can manage them? (i.e. cultural differences)
2. What continued involvement in the project do you see yourself having once you return to the United States, if any?

### Part V: CV/Résumé

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

### Part VI: Transcript

Please attach an official copy of your current University transcript.

### Part VII: Recommendation Letters

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

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