

# McMaster School Fellow Application

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AY 2026-2027

***Proposals for international Fellow initiatives are due by 4:00 p.m. Wednesday, March 4, 2026, and must be submitted electronically to the McMaster School for Advancing Humanity at [mcmasterschool@defiance.edu](mailto:mcmasterschool@defiance.edu). Any questions can be directed to Bridgette Winslow at [bwinslow@defiance.edu](mailto:bwinslow@defiance.edu) or Kim Esquivel at [kesquivel@defiance.edu](mailto:kesquivel@defiance.edu).***

***Proposals for domestic Fellow initiatives can be submitted anytime for consideration and must be submitted electronically to the McMaster School for Advancing Humanity at [mcmasterschool@defiance.edu](mailto:mcmasterschool@defiance.edu).***

The McMaster School for Advancing Humanity was founded to serve as a focal point for teaching, service, scholarship, and action to improve the human condition worldwide. The mission of the McMaster School is

- to educate students for responsible citizenship;
- to produce committed global citizens and leaders who understand the importance of individual liberties in improving the human condition worldwide; and
- To encourage graduates to take an active role in addressing these issues in whatever professions they may choose.

The School serves as a catalyst for innovative, interdisciplinary, community-based work by creating and supporting opportunities for teams of faculty, students, and staff to use their academic and professional skills to address a community need.

The McMaster Fellows is a signature program of the McMaster School. Each year, faculty fellows are chosen based on a competitive proposal selection process. There are two types of McMaster Fellows – Research Fellows and Non-Research Fellows.

***Research Fellows:*** Successful proposals are those that integrate a faculty member's scholarly work to meet a community-defined need or objective and those that provide evidence of the applicant's ability to effectively lead a learning community, support undergraduate research, and the applicant's experience traveling overnight with students. Demonstrated community participation in defining the scope of the proposed project is required. Successful projects clearly address the goals of the McMaster School, which are

1. To critically examine the root causes of human suffering through community-based research that addresses systemic factors that impede human progress;
2. To give students the knowledge and capacities to be active world citizens and to view themselves as members of the world community;
3. To contribute actively through sponsored scholarship and service to the improvement of the human condition worldwide;
4. To exchange, create, and disseminate knowledge about successful models of active citizenship and public service; and
5. To create at Defiance College one of the nation's premier undergraduate educational programs with a focus on scholarship and service, with a special emphasis on developing an innovative approach to teaching.

**Non-Research Fellow:** Successful proposals are those that provide evidence of the applicant's ability to effectively lead a learning community, support undergraduate research, and the applicant's experience traveling overnight with students. The proposal should clearly indicate a desire to experience, explore, and support the initiative through the goals of the McMaster School, which are

1. To critically examine the root causes of human suffering through community-based research that addresses systemic factors that impede human progress;
2. To give students the knowledge and capacities to be active world citizens and to view themselves as members of the world community;
3. To contribute actively through sponsored scholarship and service to the improvement of the human condition worldwide;
4. To exchange, create, and disseminate knowledge about successful models of active citizenship and public service; and
5. To create at Defiance College one of the nation's premier undergraduate educational programs with a focus on scholarship and service, with a special emphasis on developing an innovative approach to teaching.

### **Expectations of Fellows**

Note the designations as listed below – in the absence of a designation (research / non-research fellow) the expectation pertains to both.

Fellows are expected

1. To attend a summer seminar that includes topics on principles and best practices of leading learning communities, conducting community-based research, directing undergraduate research, managing a budget, and traveling with students abroad.
2. To organize and lead a productive learning community of scholars during both Fall and Spring semesters.
3. For Research Fellows only: To complete their proposed scholarly work as they supervise the McMaster Scholars' work.  
For Non-Research Fellows only: To supervise the McMaster Scholars' work.
4. For Research Fellows only: To present the findings of their scholarly work at a public forum at Defiance College (at the McMaster Symposium) and, where possible, either their scholarly work or work related to their participation in the McMaster program at regional, national, and international professional meetings.  
For Non-Research Fellows only: To aid in the preparation of and participate in the learning community's presentation at the annual McMaster Symposium.
5. For Research Fellows only: To submit an article directly related to their scholarly work for the McMaster Journal and seek publication of their scholarly work or work related to their participation in the McMaster program in other arenas.  
For Non-Research Fellows only: To submit a brief introduction to the initiative and the articles by the McMaster Scholars in the learning community that you led for the McMaster Journal.
6. To actively recruit students to apply to be McMaster Scholars in his/her learning community.

## **PROPOSAL FORM**

*Send the completed proposal to the McMaster School for Advancing Humanity, at [mcmasterschool@defiance.edu](mailto:mcmasterschool@defiance.edu) by Wednesday, March 4, 2026.*

**I. For Research Fellows only: Research Project Overview – Please provide the following information. Include references to the McMaster School goals where applicable throughout each of the following sections.**

1. Introduction to the proposed research project
2. Community benefit of the proposed research project
3. Benefit to the applicant
4. Comment on your ability to complete the research project

***For Non-Research Fellows only: Please provide a Statement of Interest relative to the location, prospective partners, or student learning associated with a McMaster School Initiative. Also please include a brief narrative about how this experience can be of benefit to you.***

**II. For Both Research and Non-Research Fellows: Please address how you plan to lead an effective and successful learning community. Also, explain your past experience traveling with students, or your knowledge and skills that will be a benefit to this initiative.**

**III. For Research Fellows only: Research Project Design – Please use the headings below to provide a clear understanding of the proposed research.**

- Description of research project, including purpose, goals, and objectives
- Literature Review
- Methodology
- Anticipated Outcomes
- Mechanisms for providing results back to the community partner
- Budget for materials necessary to complete your research project