The Fellowship

The 2023 Meredith Fonda Russell International Fieldwork Fellowship is made possible by a generous gift from Sarah Schoentgen in loving memory of her daughter Meredith Russell, a former student at the College. Part of this gift is used to support student scholarships, and part is used to support summer international fieldwork for students at Sarah Lawrence. While preference is given to continuing undergraduate students, graduating seniors are also eligible to apply if they commit to returning to the College to present the results of their fieldwork.

Meredith was a dedicated humanist and activist with an inquisitive mind and adventurous spirit. She exemplified the ideals inherent in a Sarah Lawrence education. A student of the world, her pursuit of knowledge was admirable and readily apparent in her incredible zest for exploring different places and different cultures. Caring and thoughtful, her writings reflected a deep-seated concern for others that seemed well beyond her years. Meredith’s dreams and aspirations are reflected in this gift to support and inspire scholarship and fieldwork activities that will promote Meredith’s legacy of combined passions for the environment, social justice, international understanding and the arts.

The fellowship is intended to support students with interests consistent with Meredith’s hopes and aspirations for gaining international experience. The grant prioritizes student work on international projects that contribute positively to the community to which the students travel, their own research interests, and the Sarah Lawrence community. In light of the international travel difficulties that have emerged from the Covid pandemic domestic projects that reflect the spirit of MFR’s focus on cross-cultural exchanges and collaboration will be considered.

Student applicants should, whenever possible, situate the proposed fieldwork project within the context of completed coursework, showing how their academic work has prepared them sufficiently to complete the proposed project. If applicable, the proposals should also describe how the student’s other experiences will enable them to accomplish its objectives. The fellowship will provide support up to $2,000 per project for summer travel abroad.

At the conclusion of each student’s travel fellowship, the recipient is required to submit a report on the experience, and to make a presentation to the Sarah Lawrence College community. Please access the 2022-2023 Meredith Fonda Russell application on MySLC for application instructions.