PUBLIC HUMANITIES INITIATIVE IN DOCTORAL EDUCATION
2023-2024 FELLOWSHIPS

**JOB TITLE:** Public Humanities Doctoral Fellow  
**ORGANIZATION:** Modern Language Association  
**LOCATION:** 85 Broad Street, New York, NY 10004

**ORGANIZATION DESCRIPTION**

The **Modern Language Association**, based in New York City, is one of the world's largest scholarly associations, with approximately 205,000 members in nearly 100 countries. The MLA promotes the study and teaching of languages and literatures through its programs, publications, annual convention, and advocacy work. The organization sustains a wide-ranging print and electronic publishing program that includes books, journals, style guides, and an international bibliography. The MLA is a leader in supporting the humanities within and outside academia. Diversity, inclusion, and workplace equity are at the core of our culture, policies, and practices.

**POSITION DESCRIPTION**

As a Public Humanities Doctoral Fellow at the MLA, you will work collaboratively on creating new and improving existing membership resources, with a focus on strategic initiatives related to professional development, curricular innovation, and program change in a higher education context. In addition to assisting with the administration of some of our most successful projects, including the Humanities Innovation Grant, the Innovation Room at the MLA Annual Convention, and leadership training for faculty members at the ADE-ADFLD-Summer Seminars, the fellow will contribute to the development of new virtual meeting formats and digital resources.

**GOALS**

The goals of this fellowship include:

- Developing a deeper understanding of the changing landscape of the humanities in higher education, from the challenges individual departments and programs are faced with to larger structural trends;

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• Learning about professional development opportunities for academics at all career stages at the MLA and beyond, and contributing to the launch of new initiatives, with attention to access, diversity, and inclusion;
• Gaining experience in building programs, planning events, conducting outreach campaigns, and assessing project outcomes;
• Growing a network of professionals within and beyond the humanities ecosystem through meaningful interactions and collaborations;
• Learning first-hand about the office culture, structures, and workflows of a medium-sized nonprofit organization.

RESPONSIBILITIES

Working with Lydia Tang, MLA Head of World Language Programs, the fellow's projects and responsibilities will include:
• Supporting the coordination and execution of the MLA’s various initiatives in humanities innovation, including the Innovation Room at the MLA Annual Convention, programming at the ADE and ALD Summer Seminars, and the Humanities Innovation Grant program;
• Contributing to the creation of new resources and events for graduate students, faculty members, and institutional members in world languages, including programming and sessions at the MLA 2024 Convention in Philadelphia, and virtual networking, professional development, and mentoring events;
• Growing the digital presence of these initiatives on the MLA website and writing content for the professional development blog hosted on the MLA Job List;
• Shadowing supervisors to gain insight and experience into the roles of the working life of humanities PhDs at a higher-education nonprofit; conducting informational interviews with both MLA staff members and outside contacts.

QUALIFICATIONS

• Pursuing a PhD in the humanities or humanistic social sciences;
• Passion for improving humanities education at the MA, BA, and PhD levels;
• Demonstrated interest in professional development, mentoring, curricular innovation, and/or program reform;
• Good oral and written communication skills, including the ability to write for different audiences;
• Effective in meeting deadlines and managing multiple projects at once;
• Ability to work collaboratively;
• Enthusiasm for learning new skills and concepts; openness to asking questions and seeking help when needed.
• Desired skill: Experience with the study of world languages and literatures (either modern or ancient) on the undergraduate and/or graduate levels.
SPECIFIC APPLICATION QUESTION

How do you see yourself contributing to projects related to professional development and curricular innovation at the MLA? You may draw on your academic training, your extracurricular and work experiences, and/or your ideas about the future of teaching and learning in the humanities.

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