PUBLIC HUMANITIES INITIATIVE IN DOCTORAL EDUCATION
2024-2025 FELLOWSHIPS

**JOB TITLE:** Public Humanities Doctoral Fellow  
**ORGANIZATION:** Modern Language Association (MLA)  
**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 20,000 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, focusing on strategic initiatives related to professional development, the promotion of equitable departmental and institutional practices, and curricular innovation in higher education. In addition to assisting with the administration of current projects, including the Mellon-funded Pathways initiative, leadership training for faculty members at the ADE-ALD-Summer Seminars and the virtual MAPS Leadership Institute, and programming at the MLA Convention, the fellow will contribute to the development of new virtual meeting formats and digital resources. The MLA employs a flexible hybrid work model, with staff members working from the organization's lower Manhattan headquarters and remotely.

**GOALS**

The goals of this fellowship include:

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• Gaining experience in building programs, planning events, and assessing project outcomes;
• Contributing to the launch of new initiatives, with attention to diversity, equity, inclusion, and access;
• 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;
• Learning about professional development opportunities for academics at all career stages at the MLA and beyond;
• 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, and the Academic Program Services and Professional Development team, the fellow’s projects and responsibilities will include:

• Supporting the coordination and execution of MLA programming. Projects may include offerings at the 2025 MLA Annual Convention in New Orleans, such as the Language and Literature Program Innovation Room, as well as virtual webinars and workshops;
• Contributing to the creation and maintenance of resources, including those connected to the Mellon-funded initiative, MLA Pathways: Recruitment, Retention, and Career Readiness, and the Digital Repository for the Innovation Room;
• Learning about and contributing to benefits for the MLA’s institutional members (MAPS/ADE/ALD), such as the ADE and ALD Bulletins, external reviewer training, and professional development offerings at the ADE-ALD Summer Seminar and the virtual MAPS Leadership Institute;
• If desired, writing content for the professional development blog hosted on the MLA Job List.

**QUALIFICATIONS**

• Pursuing a PhD in the humanities or humanistic social sciences;
• Passion for improving humanities education at the MA, BA, and PhD levels;

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- 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) at the undergraduate and/or graduate levels.