Call for Cultural Heritage Informatics Graduate Fellowship Applications

APPLICATION DEADLINE: July 6, 2014

The Cultural Heritage Informatics Initiative invites applications for its 2016-2017 Cultural Heritage Informatics Graduate Fellowship program.

What is “Cultural Heritage Informatics?”

In recent years, the term “informatics” has become popular to describe a wide variety of content domains: music informatics, chemical informatics, community informatics, bio-informatics, social informatics just to name a few. At its simplest (and most inclusive), the term “informatics” is used to describe the creative application of information, communication, and computing technologies (broadly defined) to address the needs, challenges, and content of a specific domain. Cultural heritage informatics, then, refers to the creative application of information and computing technologies in the domain of cultural heritage.

Fellowship Details

The Cultural Heritage Informatics Fellowships offer MSU graduate students in departments and programs with an emphasis on cultural heritage (Anthropology, History, Art History, Museum Studies, Historical & Cultural Geography, Classics, etc.) the theoretical and methodological skills necessary to creatively apply digital technologies to cultural heritage materials, challenges, and questions. In addition, the fellowships provide graduate students with the opportunity to influence the current state of cultural heritage informatics and digital heritage, and become leaders for the future of cultural heritage informatics.

During the course of their fellowship (which lasts an academic year), students will develop (either individually or collaboratively) a significant and innovative digital cultural heritage project. Projects might include (but are certainly not limited to) a serious game, a mobile application, a digital archive, or a collaborative digital publication. The project must also have a significant public component. To support their work, fellows will receive a stipend of $2000 per semester. In addition, fellows will have the opportunity to receive an additional $1000 to expand their project during the summer. As the fellows will be expected to present their work at professional conferences and meetings, they will receive an additional $1000 in travel funds. While applicants may have previous technical experience, such experience is not required to apply.

Fellowship Projects

The primary goal of the fellowship program is to provide an opportunity for participants to collaboratively develop a significant and innovative digital cultural heritage. It is very important to note that there is no single mechanism by which fellows will come to these projects. If applicants
have an existing idea for a specific project, they are welcome to include that in their application statement. If applicants have an interest in a platform or technology (but no specific project in mind), they are encouraged to include that in their application statement. If fellows do not have a particular project or platform in mind, they will work with members of the Cultural Heritage Informatics Initiative in order to define a suitable project.

For more information on current CHI Graduate Fellow projects, visit the Cultural Heritage Informatics Initiative website (chi.anthropology.msu.edu)

Responsibilities

The Cultural Heritage Informatics Grad Fellowship carries the following obligations:

- All CHI Grad Fellows must be in-residence at LEADR for at least 6 hours each week on Fridays (part of this time will be dedicated to the fellowship program’s weekly group meeting, while the rest of the time will be dedicated to collaborative/communal work between all of the fellows)
- All CHI Grad Fellows must commit to attending weekly meetings at MATRIX (Fridays, 1:30-3:00pm)
- All CHI Grad Fellows must complete a series of prerequisites (including readings and technical tutorials) before the beginning of their fellowship in the fall
- All CHI Grad Fellows must write at least 1 substantive blog post per month on the CHI Website
- All CHI Grad Fellows must submit a project proposal no later than 12/5/2016
- All CHI Grad Fellows much complete and launch their project by no later than 5/3/2017
- All CHI Grad Fellows must submit their final project white paper no later than 5/8/2017
- All CHI Grad Fellows must submit a project description and representative image for the CHI website no later than 5/8/2017
- Those students who are not able to meet these obligations should not apply.

Eligibility

In order to be eligible to apply for a Cultural Heritage Informatics Graduate Fellowship, applicants

- must be enrolled and be in good academic standing in a graduate program at Michigan State University (either at the Masters or Doctoral level). A primary focus of the graduate program must be cultural heritage (broadly defined).
- must be enrolled full-time in the year for which they are applying.
Awards will be made to individuals who demonstrate academic achievement, are committed to a career that embraces cultural heritage informatics, and show potential to make meaningful contributions in the domain of cultural heritage informatics.

Applicants must complete and submit the following materials in order to be considered:

- A cover letter addressed to the selection committee
- A current copy of their CV
- A brief statement (3 pages maximum) discussing the applicant’s professional and scholarly goals, their interests in cultural heritage informatics (broadly or specifically), and how the fellowship program will contribute to their professional & scholarly development.
- An unofficial copy of current transcripts
- A completed Cultural Heritage Informatics Fellowship Application Form (http://chi.anthropology.msu.edu/wp-content/uploads/2013/05/2016-2016-CHI-Fellowship-Application-Form.pdf)

Application packages must be submitted electronically in PDF form to:

Ethan Watrall  
Assistant Professor, Department of Anthropology  
Associate Director, MATRIX  
Director, Cultural Heritage Informatics Initiative  
watrall@msu.edu

All questions or inquiries should be directed to Ethan Watrall (watrall@msu.edu or 517.884.2476)

**Application Deadline**

Completed application package must be received by *5pm (EST) on July 6th, 2016.*