The Program:

The Moore Undergraduate Research Apprentice Program (MURAP) is a paid summer fellowship designed to foster the entrance of talented students from diverse backgrounds within the humanities, social sciences, and fine arts into PhD programs and faculty positions in U.S. colleges and universities. The program seeks to increase the number of individuals holding faculty positions within the academy who are from underrepresented racial and ethnic groups or demonstrate a commitment to diversity. The program serves the related goals of providing academic role models for promising young scholars and structuring campus environments so that they will be more conducive to improved racial and ethnic relations. MURAP aims to achieve its mission by identifying and supporting students of great promise and helping them to become scholars of the highest distinction. Traditionally, MURAP is a residential program, however, due to the extraordinary circumstances posed by the COVID-19 pandemic, the program may be delivered online in summer of 2021. A final determination about the location of the program will be made when students receive their admissions offers.

Each summer, the program brings together a cohort of 20 undergraduates (rising juniors and seniors) from colleges and universities across the U.S. for an intensive, ten-week research and graduate school professional development experience.

Summer Research Experience:

Students are expected to develop a 20-25 page research project under the guidance of a faculty mentor with whom they are paired according to areas of study and research interests. In addition to virtual meetings with their faculty mentor, students are expected to attend all components of the program, as follows:

- a weekly 1.5-hour seminar where they will present and discuss their research with the entire cohort (all students, faculty mentors, and MURAP staff)
- GRE review course
- Weekly writing, communication skills, and professional development workshops
- Two-day academic conference

A sample calendar of required activities and deadlines is available on our website.

To support their participation in the program, student fellows will receive a stipend
(students who are Mellon Mays Undergraduate Fellowship [MMUF] recipients receive their stipend from their home institution), an allowance for meals (if the program is on campus), and an allowance to cover the cost of books and other supplies that assist students to participate. Successful completion of the program and receipt of the full stipend requires satisfactory conduct and participation in and completion of all required activities.

**Why you should apply for MURAP:**

When asked to speak to potential MURAP applicants, here’s what our alumni had to say…

“MURAP will redefine how you see the world in more ways than one. The faculty mentors, staff, and cohort members you’re surrounded with will provide an array of different perspectives that you need in this world. I was a different person before I started MURAP. I am so happy to be the person I am now. I would recommend MURAP to anyone and everyone. It is the minority space I’ve always craved and the environment I need.”

“You will meet some of your closest friends in this program and they will carry on for the rest of your life. At my home university, I could barely interact with BIPOC students in a classroom setting because I would usually be the only person (specifically the only queer WOC). This was such an uplifting and positive experience. It reaffirmed my experiences and feelings because I wasn’t the only person who felt tokenized and mistreated in a classroom. Apply. You will not regret it.”

“I think I would say to any student who is constantly told that their research isn't valid, that there’s no place for certain topics in their discipline, that they cannot be professors because the academy won’t accept them, or is just struggling to find an academic community, that they need to apply for this program. It is very likely that I would not have gone to grad school or would have gone into a program I hated had it not been for this program. I learned so much that no one would have told me about what it is like to be a BIPOC entering academia. This program helped bring back my confidence in my work that had been stripped away from me by every professor who told me work was not valid or good enough. Through the help of my mentor, the staff, faculty, and my cohort I am able to think about what I want to do in new ways and have been constantly reminded that whether I enter the academia or industry I have so much value and wisdom to share.”

And finally, in the wise words of one alumnus….

“DO IT!!!!!!!!!!”
Eligibility:

Program applicants should be mindful that MURAP offers an intensive research and professional development experience that requires a substantial commitment of time, intellectual resources and effort. Therefore, students may not be employed or take non-MURAP classes while enrolled in the program. Student fellows are selected based on a variety of factors that may include their academic promise; clarity and quality of their statement of research interests; availability of a suitable mentor; demonstrated commitment to increasing opportunities for underrepresented students of color in academic settings; serious intent to pursue the PhD (as opposed to a professional degree) in the target areas; and willingness and ability to participate in all aspects of MURAP.

Applicants must be U.S. citizens, U.S. permanent residents, U.S. nationals or have received protected status. They must have completed at least four semesters of undergraduate study and have at least one semester (a minimum of 12 credit hours) of undergraduate work remaining when they will enter MURAP.

In completing the statement of research interests included in the application, students must demonstrate clearly their interest in and suitability for the program given MURAP’s mission and selection criteria. For more information about the program, please visit MURAP’s website http://murap.unc.edu/.

Eligible Fields of Study:

- Anthropology and Archaeology
- Area/Cultural Studies
- Art History
- Classics
- English/Comparative Literature
- Ethnic Studies (including but not limited to Africana, African American, Diaspora, Latinx, Native American Studies)
- Film, Cinema, and Media Studies
- Musicology, Ethnomusicology, and Music Theory
- Foreign Languages and Literatures
- Gender/Sexuality Studies
- Geography
- History
- Linguistics
- Literature
- Performance Studies
- Philosophy
- Political Science/Political Theory
- Psychology
- Public Policy
- Religion and Theology
- Sociology
- Theater/Dramatic Arts
- Interdisciplinary studies
- Urban Studies/City and Regional Planning

*Please note MURAP does not accept applications from students who wish to pursue professional degrees such as JD, MSFW, MFA, MBA, MPA, MEd or EdD; or from those receiving a bachelor’s degree in pre-professional or applied fields of study, such as business, education, journalism, library and information sciences, law, social work, social welfare, and public health.