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Miller Arts Scholars Arts Award
1 April 2022

Semester Studying English Literature at the University of Oxford

I.   Proposal

I will be spending next semester as a visiting student at Hertford College in the University of Oxford, and I am thrilled for this opportunity to cultivate both my analytical prose and my understanding of English literature, criticism, and theory.

In my application statement, I cited I. A. Richards as being one of the primary thinkers who set off my interest in poetic criticism. His work struck me, and I was amazed that I'd never even heard his name, nor the names of many other seminal critics, before taking a chance poetics course in my fourth semester at UVa. Richards' *Practical Criticism* is credited with inaugurating the practice of "close reading," yet the very idea of close reading as a method with origins — as a practice of reading poetry that is anything other than the perfect standard — had gone mostly unaddressed in the whole of my (otherwise excellent) English curriculum. I wanted to go to a place where I could ask directly and investigate deeply the questions I have about how we think about poetry, and the tutorial system at Oxford — in which students read and work largely independently, writing essays on a weekly and biweekly basis — offers precisely that possibility.

As such, my written "product" from my time abroad will be twofold: essays on poetry and poetics produced within my studies, and poems produced outside of my studies. I plan on writing these poems with an eye towards my Area Program in Poetry Writing capstone project, a 40 to 50 page manuscript that I will be assembling (ENCW 4920) the spring I return. Naturally, I anticipate these poems being strengthened by my coursework — which will very likely focus on early twentieth century modernism, an era I've become increasingly drawn to — not to mention new and exciting circumstances, and the museums, archives, and historical sites I may want to fold into my manuscript's "narrative."*

Professor Brad Pasanek, my project mentor, was the natural choice to support this experience: not only did he provide feedback on my application, but he also pointed me towards the work of Hertford tutors and lecturers relevant to our joint interest in the digital humanities. He also possesses an abiding research interest in poetry and poetics spanning centuries and disciplines — thus, I felt that his mentorship *combined* with the creative writing mentorship already built into the APPW would be most valuable for this opportunity, given that I aim to build my critical prose and research skills as well as creative work.

Because the program cost is significantly more than the cost of attendance at UVa, I am requesting the full $3000 award amount, as detailed below. I sincerely thank the Miller Arts committee for the consideration of my proposal.

* The following are more specific details regarding goals for my poetry "product." First, I expect to write around 15 new poems total; that is, approximately one new poem per week — a pace I am comfortable with after having taken a number of creative writing workshops at UVa with comparable output. Second, the final form of the work will most likely be electronic, though I also intend on keeping a journal/sketchbook with notes and impressions. Both I will be happy to share at the April outcome presentation (see schedule below) in addition to my overall experience. Finally, ekphrasis — or writing after visual art — has been an important part of my process for a while now; some museums I am looking forward to "writing after" include the Ashmolean Museum, the Victoria and Albert Museum, and London's National Gallery.

II.   Timeline

SPRING 2022
- Continue filling out paperwork in preparation for travel/visiting student status

SUMMER 2022
- Pre-reading
- Research and purchase flight tickets

FALL 2022
September 2022
- Pay tuition and other fees
- Fly to London for IFSA orientation
- Travel to Oxford and settle into Hertford College
- September Seminar (Humanities-focused seminars for fall visiting students)
- 4-5 poems

October - December 2022
- Primary and secondary tutorials (my subject-specific coursework)
- 10-11 poems
- Fly back to Virginia

SPRING 2023
- Assemble capstone manuscript in ENCW 4920
- Develop outcome report and submit by April deadline
- Present on visiting student experience, including notebook/manuscript at outcome presentation in April

III.   Budget

Budget Notes:
- The "Study Abroad Itemized Costs" are based on my "Education Abroad Expenses Form," which has already been approved by UVa Study Abroad. These same costs may also be found on the program website under "Dates and Fees" (an image is also pasted at the end of this proposal — the "Transportation to and from Airports" is the only line item added specifically by UVa).

- IFSA State School Grant: IFSA-Butler (the institution through which this program is arranged) offers a $2000 scholarship automatically to all students attending a state school, of which UVa is one.
- UVa ISO Scholarship: I am grateful to have applied for and received a $2000 scholarship from UVa ISO to be used towards the funding of this experience. I have informed the coordinator of this scholarship of my intention to apply for this Miller Arts Award, and they assured me that they do not expect any conflict on their end.
- "TOTAL ESTIMATED COST - TOTAL AWARDS": This would be the amount supplied by my own contributions.
- These tuition and fees, including flight tickets, have not yet been paid and will very likely be paid late in the summer, in August or early September, in accordance with the program start date and IFSA policy.

Study Abroad Itemized Costs	Amount
Tuition and Fees	$ 23,425
Books and Supplies	$ 278
Housing/Room	$ 2,550
Dining/Board	$ 1,354
Airline Tickets	$ 1,200
Transportation to and from Airports	$ 100
Personal Expenses	$ 1,258
TOTAL ESTIMATED COST	**$ 30,165**

Scholarships/Awards	Amount
IFSA State School Grant	$ 2000
UVa ISO Scholarship	$ 2000
Miller Arts Award	$ 3000
TOTAL AWARDS	**$ 7000**

TOTAL ESTIMATED COST - TOTAL AWARDS	**$ 23,165**

Dates and Fees

DATES AND FEES

📅 Program Dates

Program Start Date	Early Start: Early September 2022
Program End Date	Mid-December 2022

Program dates are subject to change. Your IFSA Admissions Counselor will alert you when it is time to purchase your flights.

💲 Program Fees

Tuition	est. $23,425
Housing	est. $2,550
Insurance	Included
TOTAL PROGRAM FEE	**est. $25,975**

Tuition is inclusive of pre-arrival advising, orientation, co-curricular activities, on-site guidance, 24/7 emergency support, and post-program transcript. Students pay a $500 program deposit upon confirmation of attendance. The deposit is applied to the total program fee.

📅 Estimated Costs

Airfare	$1,200
Meals	$1,354
Books and Supplies	$278
Local Transportation	$0
Visa	$0
Personal Expenses	$1,258

(Includes laundry, required local phone number, entertainment, expected start-up costs, etc. Does not include personal travel.)

TOTAL ESTIMATED COSTS	**est. $4,090**

💲 Other Financial Considerations

MEAL ALLOWANCE

Students receive a meal allowance of approximately $530.

ACADEMIC FEES

Hertford charges higher fees for study in Geography (est. $910); and Biochemistry, Computer Science, and Physics (est. $1,430).

IV.   Evidence of Participation in the Arts

My two majors are computer science and English with a concentration in poetry writing (the Area Program in Poetry Writing, or APPW). The following are arts and/or English/literature courses I have taken or am taking at UVa:

-	ENCW 2300	Introduction to Poetry Writing	Fall 2019
-	COLA 1500	*The Name of the Rose*	Fall 2019
-	ARTS 2000	Introduction to Studio Art	Fall 2019
-	ENCW 3310	Intermediate Poetry Writing I	Spring 2020
-	ENGL 3500	Hacking for Humanists	Spring 2020
-	ENCW 4830	Advanced Poetry Writing I	Fall 2021
-	ENCW 4830	Advanced Poetry Writing I*	Spring 2021
-	ENGL 2506	20th Century Poetics	Spring 2021
-	ENGL 3002	History of Literatures in English II	Spring 2021
-	ENCW 4820	Poetry Program Poetics	Fall 2021
-	ENGL 3001	History of Literatures in English I	Fall 2021
-	ENGL 3510	Medieval Dreams and Visions	Fall 2021
-	ENCW 5310	Advanced Poetry Writing II	Spring 2022
-	ENCW 4820	Poetry Program Poetics*	Spring 2022
-	RUTR 2730	Dostoevsky	Spring 2022

Outside of coursework, I enjoy attending various UVa and local events including poetry readings, guest lectures, and discussions. I am also a technician of the digital humanities group Puzzle Poesis (co-founded by Professor Pasanek), where we organize events and activities around puzzling, language, and play. I have also begun to submit my work to small literary journals for publication; these may be found at https://brennacourtney.com/poetry.

Lastly, I have taken both of the Miller Arts seminar courses, CASS 1010 and CASS 1011; and, this spring and last, thanks to the generosity of the Miller Arts Scholars committee, I applied for and received Artist Minigrant funds.

* Taken for credit with another professor, per the APPW course requirements.