

GRADUATE FELLOWSHIP: TOLEDO-LUCAS COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY



Title: Graduate Assistant – Masters Level: Scholarship of Engagement at the Toledo-Lucas County Public Library

Application deadline: February 15th

(When the deadline falls on a weekend, applications will be due the immediately following Monday.)

Basic Functions and Responsibilities:

To work principally at the TLCPL's Main Library under the supervision of the Humanities Department Manager or their designee, on special, high profile, community engagement projects.

At the beginning of the term, the student will meet with library staff to design the project, and identify milestones and deliverables. Additionally, the Fellowship experience will include one-on-one time with library managers and administrators as well as time observing interactions on an information desk. The skills that fellows acquire may include database management, event planning, community engagement, and outreach and technology skills.

The position involves outreach scholarship and application of disciplinary knowledge within the context of a major non-profit, public institution. The TLCPL Mission is compatible with the University of Toledo's and expresses a directive to "engage all of our communities, inspire lifelong learning, and provide universal access to a broad range of information, ideas, and entertainment." There are further opportunities for the fellow's engagement as described in the 3 focus areas of the 2016 TLCPL Strategic Plan: "Support essential literacies; foster a culture of innovation and leadership; strengthen our community engagement." Historically, library professions have been a potential career direction for

English graduates, and previous recipients of this fellowship have gone on to pursue a Masters of Library Science degree, as well as positions in event management, grant writing, and other exciting professions.

Characteristic Duties and Responsibilities:

The Graduate Assistant assigned to this position will develop and complete a specific project rooted in both the humanities and in the Library strategic plan. In doing that work, they will accomplish the following:

- Organize participatory community events
- Implement collaborative communication between UT and TLCPL
- Generate project related documentation
- Complete an evaluation / participation in a feedback process

The position is a full-time GAship, meaning that it is 20 hours a week.

Funding:

The position is for one year; current English GAs earn \$10,500.

Qualifications:

An M.A. student in English, in either the Literature or the Writing Studies concentration, with a commitment to information literacy development or any of the aspects of the TLCPL strategic plan. Students typically apply for this award in their second semester, and the second year of their M.A. degree is their fellowship year. Applicant must have excellent oral and written communication skills and a demeanor and personality that is appropriate with interacting with library patrons, professionals, and community partners.

Link with Academic Program:

English Literature and Writing Studies, and the related discipline of Library Science, are rapidly evolving areas of study, with skill sets for well-prepared graduate students evolving to encompass fields beyond post-secondary teaching. UT doesn't offer a Library Science program, so English has historically placed a GA at the Toledo-Lucas County Public Library in an effort to provide professional opportunities for students not intending to enter the teaching profession. This GAship provides a non-profit focus on public service sector development akin to the profession and creatively addresses opportunities within an evolving data and technology-driven environment.

Application Process:

For funding consideration, submit a copy of your CV and a 2-page essay (double-spaced, one-inch margins, twelve-point font) in which you express your specific interests in pursuing this position.

In this essay,

- a) summarize any relevant qualifying experience you may have that might benefit your performance in this role;
- b) provide insight as to how the position will be useful to you in your specific professional pursuits;
- c) discuss how working in this particular environment will serve you as a graduate student in English.

Students awarded the fellowship must submit a 2-page report (double-spaced, one-inch margins, twelve-point font) elaborating on projects completed during the fellowship year. The report must be included in the M.A. portfolio, submitted in the student's final semester.