



HARRY RANSOM  
CENTER

## Fellowship Guidelines

The following guidelines have been designed to inform current and prospective Harry Ransom Center fellows about our research fellowship program. These guidelines are available online at [hrc.utexas.edu/fellowships](http://hrc.utexas.edu/fellowships) and are updated regularly in accordance with university and federal procedures.

Individuals who have been awarded a fellowship must review these guidelines before submitting their Fellowship Acceptance Letter and should save these guidelines for reference before and during their residency.

You are always welcome to direct your concerns and questions to [ransomfellowships@utexas.edu](mailto:ransomfellowships@utexas.edu).

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## Accepting the Award

Fellowship recipients will receive notification of their award by e-mail. In order to formally accept a 2023–2024 fellowship, the forms described below must be returned to the Ransom Center by ***Monday, May 1, 2023***. The Fellowship Coordinator will provide these documents electronically via DocuSign (confidential and data-encrypted) once the fellowship recipient has provided informal confirmation of their acceptance via email.

### I. Fellowship Guidelines

All fellowship recipients should carefully review these guidelines. By accepting your fellowship, you are accepting the terms described within.

***If you are an international scholar***, be sure to review “Information for International Scholars” on pages 14–18 for important information about visa requirements and payment.

### II. Your UT EID

The UT EID is an electronic identifier required for anyone associated with The University of Texas. You must have a UT EID and password in order to be appointed as a fellow and to access wireless internet and other resources during your residency.

To establish your UT EID, visit [utexas.edu/eid](https://utexas.edu/eid) and select “Get A UT EID.” Provide the details requested, including any previous names or alternate spellings of your name that you may use, to ensure that the system can locate any existing UT EID that may be on file for you, or generate a new one.

Please make note of your UT EID and password for your use during your residency.

**My UT EID is:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Password hint:** \_\_\_\_\_

*Note: Keep your UT EID password secure. Never write your password down or share it with anyone.*

### III. Fellowship Acceptance Materials

These forms will be sent to you via DocuSign (confidential and data-encrypted) by the Fellowship Coordinator to be signed electronically. You may review the following instructions to guide you as you’re completing them.

#### **Fellowship Acceptance Letter**

Please verify that you have read these guidelines and provide the information and paperwork required for your fellowship.

Verify that your name and project title, as they appeared in your award notification email, are accurate, or specify any necessary corrections for their future use in Ransom Center publicity.

Provide your tentative arrival date and UT EID, and indicate whether you are an international scholar who will require the J-1 visa (see pages 14–18). Please be as accurate as possible when providing your tentative arrival date; if you are unsure of your arrival date, please provide your best estimate. We ask that you check in with us at least 6 weeks before your visit to confirm your definitive arrival date so that we can arrange your office and Reading Room reservations. Please review “Selecting a Residency Period” on page 6 before making any travel arrangements.

#### **Release, Waiver, and Indemnity Agreement**

Provide your name and signature as the releasor, the current date, and ask a witness to provide his or her name and signature.

## **Payee Information Form (PIF)**

Complete section 1 and parts I and IV of this form.

In section 1, list your legal name and permanent home address (for tax purposes, university addresses cannot be accepted). International scholars without a U.S. address should list their city, province/state, postal code, and country on the Foreign Address line, and should list the number of days that you will have been in the U.S. as of the date of completing this form (estimating the number to the best of your ability as needed).

If you have a U.S. Social Security Number (SSN) or U.S. Individual Tax Identification Number (ITIN), you must report the number on this form.

In part I, check the “Individual” box, as fellowship payments may only be issued to individual recipients. In part IV, please be sure to check and provide your signature beneath the certification box that best describes you.

***Your check and tax forms (if applicable) will be mailed to the address on your PIF.*** If you have a U.S. bank account, you may additionally complete the Electronic Funds Transfer Form to arrange for your check to be direct-deposited rather than mailed (see below). International scholars who do not have a U.S. bank account may pick up their check during their residency, provided that it is ready before their departure (see “Banking” on page 16).

## **Photocopy of a Government-Issued Photo ID**

A photocopy or scan of a valid, government-issued photo ID must accompany your PIF. U.S. citizens may use a driver’s license or passport; international scholars **must** use a passport. A university ID cannot be accepted. The photocopy or scan must be clear and legible.

## **Electronic Funds Transfer Authorization Form with Voided Check (if applicable)**

This form enables the direct deposit of your payment into a U.S. bank account. It must be submitted with a voided check or other official bank document bearing the bank account and routing numbers. You will receive an automated email confirmation once the form has been processed. If you do not submit this form, your check will be mailed to the address on your PIF (for U.S. addresses); international scholars who do not have an existing U.S. bank account may pick up their check during their residency, provided that it is ready before their departure (see “Banking” on page 16).

## **Publicity and Social Media**

Following the May 1 deadline, the Ransom Center will announce the 2023–2024 fellowship recipients through the Ransom Center's website and social media, including a series of posts that highlight the research topics and photographs of individual fellowship recipients. We encourage you to submit a photo of yourself and provide relevant Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram handles for promotion (i.e., handles for your institution, department, or personal accounts). If mentioning your fellowship on your social media accounts, please tag the Ransom Center (@ransomcenter on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram).

The Ransom Center’s Communications and Marketing office may contact you before, during, or after your residency to request information about your research for the online *Ransom Center Magazine*, social media, or other publicity materials. We hope you'll stay in touch with the Ransom Center about your research and future publications, and we would be pleased to share information about your work with our audiences. For more information, see the bottom of page 13.

#### **IV. Submitting Fellowship Acceptance Materials to the Ransom Center**

The Ransom Center must receive the items and forms described above *by **Monday, May 1, 2023.***

These documents will be sent to you electronically via DocuSign, and you will be required to attach a scanned copy of a government-issued ID.

## Preparing for Your Residency

### I. Finances

Your fellowship payment is intended to help defray the expenses associated with your trip to the Ransom Center. You may use this payment to self-reimburse for any expenses that you incur during travel at your discretion. You will not need to submit any receipts to the Ransom Center, and all decisions regarding airfare, lodging, and other travel expenses are yours to make according to your own budget.

Due to university policy, your payment will not be processed until **after** you arrive at the Ransom Center. Payments are typically available approximately five business days after arrival, **but may be subject to certain delays** described below:

International scholars who do not already have a U.S. Social Security Number (SSN) or Individual Taxpayer Identification Number (ITIN) **and** have a J-1 program longer than 30 days **must apply for an SSN during their visit and will not receive payment until after the number has been issued; due to the application timeline, this will result in a payment delay of approximately three weeks.** International scholars should also note that their payments are subject to a **14–30% tax withholding.** See pages 14–18 for details.

Fellowship payments to current students of The University of Texas at Austin are subject to review by Student Financial Aid Services in order to ensure that the payment does not conflict with the terms of other sources of support received. **This may result in a payment delay of approximately one to two weeks.**

If you have received a fellowship of two months or longer, you will receive a prorated monthly stipend at the beginning of each month that you are in residence.

You may arrange to have your fellowship payment direct-deposited to a U.S. bank account by submitting the Electronic Funds Transfer form (see page 3). If you do not submit this form, your check will be mailed to the address on your PIF (for U.S. addresses); international scholars who do not have an existing U.S. bank account may pick up their check during their residency, provided that it is ready before their departure (see “Banking” on page 16).

Please note that all payments must be processed by the university’s Office of Accounting and are subject to delays over which we have no control. **For this reason, we recommend that all fellows arrive with enough funds for their entire visit.**

Fellowship award income is considered taxable for U.S. citizens. Unless you are a student who paid tuition to The University of Texas at Austin, you will not receive a tax form from the university for your fellowship payment. Nevertheless, you should report the income on your tax return on the same line as wages. It is not subject to self-employment tax, but it is taxable income. Qualified tuition payments may reduce the taxable amount of the fellowship award. Tax information for international scholars is outlined on pages 14–18.

Please note: *Filing federal tax forms is the personal responsibility of each individual. These guidelines reflect information made available by the university’s Texas Global (international scholars) and Accounting offices, and is provided to help you meet your tax filing obligations. Please be aware that we are not tax authorities and that federal and university procedures are subject to change.*

## II. Selecting a Residency Period

Recipients of 2023–2024 fellowships are responsible for completing their residency between ***June 1, 2023, and August 31, 2024***. Fellowships may not be deferred beyond August 31.

You are expected to remain in residence at the Ransom Center for the term associated with your award and will be appointed to the university as a Contract Contingent Worker and issued a J-1 visa (for international scholars) for that term: 30 calendar days for one-month fellowships, 60 calendar days for two-month fellowships, 90 calendar days for three-month fellowships, and up to 30 calendar days for travel stipends and dissertation fellowships (there is no minimum length of stay required for these awards). You may choose to visit the Center for a longer period of time, but your university appointment, visa, and other fellowship privileges will be valid for the term of your award only.

If you have received a one-month fellowship, travel stipend, or dissertation fellowship, your residency must take place during a single, continuous period. If you have received a fellowship of two or three months, you may divide your residency into separate periods of at least 30 calendar days each. International scholars should note that splitting their residency into multiple visits may result in multiple visa fees, and that a J-1 visa status for more than calendar 30 days may require an application for an SSN and result in a delay in payment (see pages 14–18).

The Ransom Center's Reading and Viewing Room (RVR) is generally open Monday–Saturday 9 a.m.–5 p.m. In order for our staff to provide you with a full orientation, residencies should be scheduled to begin on a weekday. If you plan to work on Saturdays, please be aware that you may need to request materials in advance; certain materials may not be available or may need to be pulled by appointment or on a weekday in advance.

The RVR follows the university's holiday schedule, including a winter holiday closure of approximately one week in late December. Please consult the RVR schedule at [hrc.utexas.edu/visit](http://hrc.utexas.edu/visit) to view confirmed closures. ***We cannot make special accommodations for individuals who schedule their residencies to coincide with RVR closures.***

The summer months are a particularly busy period. If your schedule is flexible, we recommend visiting at another time of the year.

Austin summers are typically hot and humid; winters are typically mild and dry. More information about Austin's climate and average monthly temperatures can be found at [austintexas.org/visit/plan-your-trip/weather](http://austintexas.org/visit/plan-your-trip/weather)

Because Austin hosts several large events, festivals, and conferences each year, it is advisable to book your lodgings early. See page 7 for details. You may also wish to consider the Ransom Center's exhibition and event calendar when planning your stay. See page 12 ("Participating in the Intellectual Life of the Ransom Center and University") for details.

Once you have decided on your residency dates, and ***at least six weeks*** in advance of your arrival, email [ransomfellowships@utexas.edu](mailto:ransomfellowships@utexas.edu) with your arrival and departure dates so that your university appointment and office space can be arranged. International scholars should provide these dates ***at least two to three months*** in advance to allow sufficient time for arranging the J-1 visa. Please review pages 14–18 and the "J-1 Scholar Pre-Arrival Guide" available at <https://global.utexas.edu/iss/immigration/j-1> for information to guide you as you plan your visit.

Throughout their residency, fellows are expected to maintain a consistent presence in the RVR to carry out their proposed research. Leaving before the end of your scheduled residency or not maintaining a consistent presence in the RVR may result in disqualification for future Ransom Center sponsorship.

### III. Housing and Transportation

Fellows are responsible for making all travel and lodging arrangements, incurring associated expenses, and then self-reimbursing with the fellowship payment.

A guide to short-term housing options in Austin can be found at <https://tinyurl.com/2p8h2aff>. We maintain this guide as a courtesy to visitors but cannot endorse any particular establishment. Please also be aware that it is not necessary to select your lodgings from this guide. Please make your housing arrangements as soon as possible. Accommodations frequently fill months in advance.

The majority of our fellows use the bus system during their visit. For complete information on Austin bus routes (including both city buses and UT Shuttles), visit [capmetro.org](http://capmetro.org). Both city buses (local routes) and UT Shuttles cost \$1.25 per ride but are free to University Affiliates with a university ID card. Once you have obtained your university ID card on the first day of your residency, simply slide the card through any bus's card reader to ride for free.

Bringing or renting a car is generally discouraged because of the limited availability of parking spaces on and around campus. During their appointment, University Affiliates may purchase a temporary parking permit ("A" permit) for a monthly fee. This permit will allow you to park in certain campus lots on a ***first-come, first-served basis***. A "UT Share Pass" may additionally be purchased for access to certain parking garages. For more information, visit [utexas.edu/parking](http://utexas.edu/parking).

For occasional car use, you may consider applying for a car-sharing program such as Zipcar. This company makes cars available on-demand in various locations city-wide. Zipcar offers a discounted membership to University Affiliates, and eight Zipcar vehicles are located on campus. For further details regarding eligibility and pricing, visit [zipcar.com/utexas](http://zipcar.com/utexas).

Austin also hosts a bike-sharing program. For more information about bike use and availability, visit [austin.bcycle.com](http://austin.bcycle.com).

### IV. Research Preparations

Each fellow will be assigned a research liaison at the Ransom Center. This Library or Curatorial staff member will serve as your primary contact for any questions about the Ransom Center's holdings as they relate to your project. The Research Division and Fellowship Coordinator will introduce you to your research liaison in advance of your residency by email, as well as upon your arrival.

You will receive an orientation to using the Center's collections upon your arrival and guidance and assistance throughout your visit from other members of the RVR staff, in accordance with the Center's policies and procedures pertaining to the Reading and Viewing Room and use of the collections.

These policies and procedures are outlined at [hrc.utexas.edu/research](http://hrc.utexas.edu/research). We appreciate your understanding of the need to follow these policies and procedures, which have been developed to protect our collections while providing access to the many fellows, independent patrons, students, and class groups who we serve year-round.

To promote a productive research experience, please familiarize yourself with and regularly consult these policies and procedures before, during, and after your residency, directing any questions to your designated research liaison, the Library staff, or Research Division. Our contact information is available at <http://www.hrc.utexas.edu/contact>

You may wish to create your research account in advance of your visit. This personal, web-based account will be used to create and track requests to view items from the collections. When creating



requests in advance, please be sure to select the “save for later” option; these saved requests can be submitted once you are in the RVR during your residency. To set up or access your research account, visit [research.hrc.utexas.edu/acon/](https://research.hrc.utexas.edu/acon/).

**My Username is:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Password hint:** \_\_\_\_\_

Please also review the WATCH Copyright File at [norman.hrc.utexas.edu/watch](https://norman.hrc.utexas.edu/watch) for information on copyright and copyright holders. It is the researcher’s responsibility to obtain necessary copyright permissions for the publication of any materials consulted.

## Arriving at the Ransom Center

### I. Before You Leave Home

Before you travel to the Ransom Center, please remember to make note of your UT EID (see page 1) and to bring these guidelines for easy reference throughout your residency. If you have a university ID card from a previous visit, please bring it with you to have it re-validated.

If you are an international scholar who requires the J-1 visa, please be sure to carry your form DS-2019 and passport with J-1 visa with you while you travel. When going through U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP), have your passport open to your J-1 visa page and present your DS-2019 to ensure that you are assigned the J-1 status (the CBP officer should note “J-1” on the entry stamp in your passport). If your residency will be longer than 30 days and you do not already have a U.S. tax number, you will also need to travel with an original or certified copy of your birth certificate for your SSN application. See pages 16–17 for details.

### II. Getting to the Ransom Center

The Ransom Center is located at 21st and Guadalupe streets, on the southwest corner of The University of Texas at Austin campus, and just north of downtown Austin. The physical address is 300 West 21st Street, Austin, TX 78712. Cab fares from Austin-Bergstrom Airport to campus generally cost around \$50. You may also travel from the airport to campus on the #20 Manor Road/Riverside bus for \$1.25. For more information on transportation from Austin-Bergstrom International Airport, visit [austintexas.gov/departments/ground-transportation-0](http://austintexas.gov/departments/ground-transportation-0).

For complete information on Austin bus routes (including both city and UT Shuttle buses), visit [capmetro.org](http://capmetro.org). Both city buses (local routes) and UT Shuttle buses cost \$1.25 per ride but are free to Research Affiliates with a university ID card. Once you have obtained your university ID card, swipe the card through any bus’s card reader to ride for free.

### III. Checking In for Your Residency

Upon your arrival, you should check in at the Ransom Center’s third floor Administrative Offices, where you will receive a brief orientation and an information packet including area maps and instructions for obtaining your university ID card and establishing your university privileges (see pages 10–12). We will also take your photo as part of your orientation; this photo will be included in an email newsletter for Ransom Center staff and is intended to help our staff welcome you during your visit. Your check-in must take place on your scheduled arrival date and during the Administrative Office hours, **Monday–Friday 8 a.m.–noon and 1–5 p.m.** You will receive detailed instructions for locating the Ransom Center and its Administrative Office by email in advance of your arrival.

International scholars who travel on the J-1 visa must additionally attend a mandatory orientation with Texas Global, the university’s international scholars’ office. The orientation should be scheduled in advance at <https://global.utexas.edu/iss/immigration/j-1> (see pages 14–18).

### IV. Becoming a Reading and Viewing Room Patron

To use the Reading and Viewing Room (RVR) you will need to present a photo ID such as a driver’s license or passport. Upon the start of your first visit, you will view a brief orientation video, and an RVR staff member (your designated research liaison, if available) will provide you with a personal orientation to the RVR procedures, resources, and use of the specific collection(s) you plan to access. If you have not already created your personal web-based research account (see page 8), you will be asked to do so at this time. Upon each subsequent visit to the RVR you will only be asked to present your photo ID. More information about research policies and procedures may be found at <https://www.hrc.utexas.edu/policies/use/>.

## During Your Residency

In addition to the resources available to patrons in the RVR (on the second floor of the building), Ransom Center fellows will have access to a number of resources on the third floor of the building (where administrative and fellowship offices are located). As University Affiliates, fellows will also have certain university privileges. The resources and privileges associated with your fellowship, detailed below, will be extended for the duration of your fellowship residency.

### I. Office Space and Storage of Personal Items

Shared office space is provided for each fellow during his or her residency, provided that space is available. At busy times of the year, office space will be assigned on a first-come, first-served basis, with priority given to recipients of three-, two-, and one-month fellowships. Depending on the number of fellows in residence during your stay, you may share an office with up to three other fellowship recipients. Each fellow will have his or her own desk and a key for locking the office. If you would like to secure belongings in your desk drawer, you may bring or purchase a combination lock for your personal use.

The fellowship offices are intended to provide you with a space for work that **does not** require use of the collection materials, such as transcribing and preparing notes from your research or checking email.

They are accessible at any time. If you wish to work in your office outside of business hours (Monday–Friday 8 a.m.–5 p.m.), you will need to sign in at the guard’s desk in the lobby; a guard will then unlock the elevator for your use.

Collection materials cannot be taken into these offices as ***collection material is not permitted outside of the RVR***. Likewise, ***items that enter the RVR are strictly regulated***. Your office provides a space to store your personal belongings while you are in the RVR. Individual lockers located just outside the RVR are also available for storing items on a day-by-day basis.

A list of items that are and are not permitted in the RVR is available on the “Reading and Viewing Room Regulations” document at [hrc.utexas.edu/research/#reading-and-viewing-room-guidelines](http://hrc.utexas.edu/research/#reading-and-viewing-room-guidelines). We ask for your support in our efforts to preserve and protect our materials. Please recognize that everyone is subject to the same policies and procedures, and that RVR staff have discretion in determining whether items may be permitted into the RVR.

### II. Computers and Wireless Internet

We encourage fellows to bring a laptop for their residency. You are permitted to take your laptop into the RVR when you are working and will have access to the university’s campus-wide wireless internet network. To access the internet, select the utexas network from your computer’s wireless internet options and log in using your UT EID and password.

For those who do not have a laptop, there are six desktop computers in the RVR available for limited use during RVR hours. Please note that these public-access computers are available to ***all*** RVR patrons for access to the library catalog, research databases, and email.

Please do not plan to use these ***shared*** computers as your primary means of work.

### III. Duplication and Digital Photography

A copy machine on the third floor is available to fellows, provided that usage is kept to a reasonable amount. Please also note that this machine cannot be used for collection material, as ***collection material is not permitted outside of the RVR.***

Copies of collection materials for **publication** must be requested through the RVR staff. These requests are met on a case-by-case basis, depending on the material's condition and copyrights, and are delivered in digital format. **Research** copies of collection materials may either be requested through RVR staff or made by the user with a digital camera. More information on digital photography and photoduplication policies and fees may be found at [hrc.utexas.edu/research/#access-policies](http://hrc.utexas.edu/research/#access-policies). Please be sure to review the "Digital Camera Use Policy" document to verify that your camera meets the requirements.

### IV. University Library Privileges

During your residency you will have borrowing privileges with The University of Texas Libraries. General information about the libraries and the online catalog may be found at [lib.utexas.edu](http://lib.utexas.edu). As a University Affiliate, you will be able to check out books and use public workstations at the libraries to access electronic resources (except for those stations restricted to university students, faculty, or staff).

### V. Phone Calls

A telephone, located near the fellowship offices, is available for shared use by fellows needing to make outgoing calls. Long distance calls must be charged to your own calling or credit card, made collect, or made using your own mobile phone. The nearest mobile phone providers to the Ransom Center are the AT&T Store (2828 Guadalupe Street, Ste. 200) and Verizon Wireless (2116 Guadalupe Street).

### VI. Kitchens and Break Rooms

There are three break rooms and a small staff kitchen, equipped with refrigerators and microwaves, on the third floor. You are welcome to use these facilities for food storage and breaks. We appreciate your help in keeping these communal spaces clean.

### VII. Lactation Room

A lactation room is available to Ransom Center fellows and staff. To coordinate access to the lactation room, please contact [ransomfellowships@utexas.edu](mailto:ransomfellowships@utexas.edu) in advance of your visit.

### VIII. University Gym Membership

As a University Affiliate, you may purchase a temporary membership with the university gym at a discounted rate. You will be responsible for membership fees. Facility information may be found at [utrecsports.org](http://utrecsports.org).

### IX. Medical Care and University-Provided Health, Counseling, and Mental Health Services

Please be aware that medical insurance is not included with your appointment. Insurance requirements and options for international scholars on the J-1 visa are outlined on page 16.

If you require medical care during your visit you may consult a private health care practitioner. In the event of an emergency, call 911.

If you will require regular care during your stay, you may wish to use the University Health Services (UHS) or Counseling and Mental Health Center (CMHC). These university-provided services include family/internal medicine, sports medicine, women's healthcare, immunizations and allergy shots, travel health, dietitian consultations, physical therapy, on-site lab and radiology, and patient education. To access to these services, you will be required to pay a Service Extension Fee. Additional fees will apply for each medical or counseling service received. The CMHC will require a free assessment appointment in advance of the extension fee, to determine whether their services are a match for your needs, or

whether they will need to refer you to a private provider. Detailed information about services, charges, and insurance requirements may be found at [healthyhorns.utexas.edu](http://healthyhorns.utexas.edu) and [cmhc.utexas.edu](http://cmhc.utexas.edu).

#### **X. Safety and Emergency Preparedness**

In case of an emergency, call 911. Up-to-date information about campus alerts and campus-wide closures and openings during emergencies or unfavorable weather situations may be found at the university's Emergency Information page, [emergency.utexas.edu](http://emergency.utexas.edu). Additional tips and resources for safety on campus may be found at [besafe.utexas.edu](http://besafe.utexas.edu). For information about the university's policies related to the Campus Carry law, visit [campuscarry.utexas.edu/visitors](http://campuscarry.utexas.edu/visitors).

#### **XI. Program Culture**

Our Fellowships Team is committed to attracting and supporting applicants across diverse backgrounds and perspectives and fostering a sense of belonging for all researchers. We strive for a community that cultivates a positive learning, teaching, and working environment.

#### **XII. Disability**

If you require accommodation because of a disability, please notify us at [ransomfellowships@utexas.edu](mailto:ransomfellowships@utexas.edu) in advance of your visit.

#### **XIII. Participating in the Intellectual Life of the Ransom Center and University**

Fellows are invited and encouraged to participate in the intellectual life of the Ransom Center and of the university. We do not intend for the following events to intrude on your research time, and we hope that you will join us for these events as your time permits. Each Wednesday at 10 a.m., the Center hosts a coffee and tea gathering that is open to all Ransom Center staff, fellows, visiting scholars, and independent researchers, and provides an opportunity for informal conversation.

The Center hosts several events throughout each semester for Ransom Center members and the public. For the current schedule, visit [hrc.utexas.edu/events](http://hrc.utexas.edu/events). Please note that these events have limited capacity, with attendance provided on a first-come, first-served basis, or requiring membership, an invitation, or RSVP. During your residency, you will be invited to member events, provided that space is available. If there is a particular event that you would like to attend, please feel free to contact [ransomfellowships@utexas.edu](mailto:ransomfellowships@utexas.edu) so that we can make arrangements to accommodate you if possible. You will also receive a 15% discount in the Museum Store, located on the first floor of the building, during your residency.

If you wish to connect with the Ransom Center beyond your residency, we invite you to become a Harry Ransom Center member. For details, visit [hrc.utexas.edu/membership](http://hrc.utexas.edu/membership). -

A university-wide event calendar is available at [calendar.utexas.edu](http://calendar.utexas.edu). Individual academic units at the university may post information about their programs and events on their own websites. A directory of academic units may be found at [utexas.edu/academics/colleges-schools](http://utexas.edu/academics/colleges-schools). We will be happy to facilitate introductions to academic units at the university at your request.

## At the End of Your Residency

### I. Returning Your Office Key

Before your departure, you ***must return your fellowship office key*** either to the Fellowship Coordinator or to the receptionist at the front desk of the third floor Administrative Offices. Please remove all of your belongings and any trash from your office. Trash cans that need to be emptied should be placed in the hallway outside of your office; trash cans that have already been emptied should be returned to your office. We appreciate your help in keeping these communal spaces clean.

### II. Notifying RVR Staff

Let the RVR staff know that your residency is ending and that they can re-shelve any materials they have been holding for you. Make sure that any duplication requests are clear and complete.

### III. Submitting Your Research Report

We ask that all fellows provide ***a two-page summary report*** on the progress of their research during the fellowship. These reports allow us to determine the efficacy of the fellowship program and are vital for evaluating collection use. Your report should discuss the collection materials that you consulted during your visit, findings, and your plans for publishing or presenting your research, and should be sent as an email attachment to [ransomfellowships@utexas.edu](mailto:ransomfellowships@utexas.edu) within ***one month*** of concluding the residency. Please be aware that reports will be shared with the Director of the Center and relevant staff members, and may also be shared with existing and potential donors.

### IV. Acknowledging Ransom Center Materials and Fellowships in Publications

You must secure the necessary Ransom Center authorization as well as any applicable copyright permissions to quote or reproduce any material consulted during your research. Please also note that the Ransom Center requires for its collections a complete copy of any publication (in any medium) that makes use of its materials. Forms and instructions can be found at <https://www.hrc.utexas.edu/research/#rights-reproductions>. Questions about the use of Ransom Center materials in published works should be directed to the Reference Team at [reference@hrc.utexas.edu](mailto:reference@hrc.utexas.edu). Please acknowledge your fellowship in any publications resulting from the research you conduct at the Ransom Center. You may phrase the acknowledgment however you wish, but please refer to both the Harry Ransom Center and the sponsor of your particular fellowship. For example, “The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation Research Fellowship from the Harry Ransom Center provided support for my research” or “A Harry Ransom Center fellowship sponsored by the Fleur Cowles Endowment supported my research.”

We would be happy to share information about your publication and research at the Ransom Center through our online *Ransom Center Magazine*. Examples of articles by and about fellows and their research may be found [here](#). If you are interested in contributing a short post about your research, please contact Manager of Communications and Marketing, [Alyssa Morris](#).

## Information for International Scholars

You are considered an international scholar if you are not a citizen or resident of the U.S. and do not hold a valid U.S. passport. International scholars should indicate their status as such on the Fellowship Acceptance Letter and carefully read the following pages.

***All international scholars are responsible for ensuring that they have the proper paperwork to study in the U.S. and for paying associated fees.*** The J-1 Short-Term Scholar is the most appropriate visa status for fellows, in accordance with The University of Texas and federal policies. ***International scholars who do not already have a U.S. Social Security Number (SSN) or Individual Taxpayer Identification Number (ITIN) and have a residency that is longer than 30 days must apply for an SSN during their J-1 program and will not receive payment until the number has been issued; due to the application timeline, this will result in a payment delay of approximately three weeks.*** All fellowship payments made to international scholars are subject to a 14–30% tax withholding and will be issued in U.S. dollars (USD). Refunds on the tax withholding may be possible by filing a U.S. federal income tax return.

### I. Selecting a Residency Period and Applying for the J-1 Visa

The J-1 Short-Term Scholar is the most appropriate visa status for fellows, in accordance with The University of Texas and federal policies. This is a nonimmigrant status designated for exchange visitors such as professors and scholars who are participating in a program for less than six months. For more information about the J-1 status, visit <https://global.utexas.edu/iss/immigration/j-1> (see the Pre-Arrival Guide and J-1 Scholar Orientation Guide) and [j1visa.state.gov/programs/short-term-scholar](http://j1visa.state.gov/programs/short-term-scholar).

Please submit the required acceptance paperwork described on pages 1–2 (due to the Ransom Center by May 1, 2023) and report your residency dates to [ransomfellowships@utexas.edu](mailto:ransomfellowships@utexas.edu) **at least** two to three months in advance of your visit to allow sufficient time to establish your J-1 status and obtain your J-1 visa.

***Please note that more time may be needed in order for you to secure your J-1 visa.*** U.S. Consulate fees, appointment procedures, and processing times vary. Contact your nearest consulate as soon as possible to determine any special procedures or deadlines. To locate your nearest consulate, visit [usembassy.gov](http://usembassy.gov).

Your J-1 status will be assigned for the dates of your residency. Please review the information on pages 5–6 when planning the dates of your residency. Recipients of two- and three-month fellowships should keep in mind that anyone who has a residency that is **longer** than 30 days must have a U.S. SSN or ITIN in order to receive payment from the university; ***this may require you to apply for an SSN during your J-1 program and result in a payment delay of approximately three weeks*** (see “Applying for a U.S. Tax Number” on page 16).

If you choose to split your residency into multiple visits (each of 30 days in length), you will be responsible for the visa paperwork and fees associated with each.



Because J-1 visa holders are permitted to enter or depart the U.S. up to 30 days before or after their official program dates, it is possible to spend time in the U.S. before and after your fellowship residency. This 30-day grace period is intended to allow scholars to travel and take care of personal matters. It is not intended to allow scholars to continue research or program duties. Doing so could violate the United States Citizenship and Immigration Status policy on Accrual of Unlawful Presence for individuals in the J status, impeding the scholar from seeking future U.S. immigration benefits and potentially subjecting them to various bars to admission to the U.S. If you are planning to arrive in the U.S. before your program dates or stay past your program dates and are uncertain as to whether your plans could constitute an Accrual of Unlawful Presence, please contact the fellowships program at [ransomfellowships@utexas.edu](mailto:ransomfellowships@utexas.edu).

If you will be participating in a J-1 program with another institution immediately before or after your residency at the Ransom Center, please inform us as soon as possible so that your visa arrangements can be coordinated appropriately. Once we have received your fellowship paperwork and your **confirmed** arrival and departure dates, we will request your J-1 status through the Texas Global international office. You will then receive an email from Texas Global ([scholars@austin.utexas.edu](mailto:scholars@austin.utexas.edu)) instructing you to complete that request through the myIO system, requesting your review and approval of your program dates and the Short-Term Scholar J-1 visa status. Once the request has been completed and approved by both you and Texas Global, they will process and express-mail your DS-2019 and a “Pre-Arrival Guide” (also available at <https://global.utexas.edu/iss/immigration/j-1>) to you. Processing time for the DS-2019 issuance is typically two weeks, though processing times may vary.

Once you have received the DS-2019 and Pre-Arrival Guide, you can proceed in scheduling your visa application appointment with your nearest U.S. Consulate or Embassy. You will also need to pay the \$220 SEVIS (SEVP I-901) and \$160 nonimmigrant visa application processing fee; applicants from certain countries may also be required to pay a visa issuance fee (“reciprocity fee”) after their application has been approved. For details about the visa application process and fees, visit <https://global.utexas.edu/iss/immigration/j-1> (see the J-1 Scholar Pre-Arrival Guide) or [j1visa.state.gov/programs/short-term-scholar](http://j1visa.state.gov/programs/short-term-scholar).

Canadians are **not** required to obtain a visa from the U.S. Consulate but must present their DS-2019, SEVIS fee receipt, and passport at the port of entry to be admitted in the J-1 status.

If you must change your residency dates after your DS-2019 form has been issued, you must inform the Ransom Center so that the DS-2019 and other visa-related documentation can be updated as needed, and in accordance with the [U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services \(USCIS\) policies](#). This process may take up to two to three months.

Be sure to carry your form DS-2019 and passport with J-1 visa with you while you travel. When going through U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP), have your passport open to your J-1 visa page and present your DS-2019 to ensure that you are assigned the J-1 status (the CBP officer should note “J-1” on the entry stamp in your passport). Although we do not anticipate that you will encounter issues with your entry into the U.S., please note the emergency information provided by Texas Global at [global.utexas.edu/iss/about/emergency](https://global.utexas.edu/iss/about/emergency).

After entering the U.S., you should print your I-94 record, available from [i94.cbp.dhs.gov/I94](https://i94.cbp.dhs.gov/I94), to confirm your entry status. You may print your I-94 record at the Ransom Center if needed.



## II. Banking

If you have an existing account with a U.S. bank, you may arrange to have your payment direct-deposited into the account by submitting the Electronic Funds Transfer form with a voided check (see page 3).

If you do not have a U.S. bank account for direct deposit, your payment will be issued to you as a check. If your check is available before you depart, you may pick it up in person during your visit. If you would like to cash your check, you may do so with Frost Bank. The nearest Frost Bank branch is located at 401 Congress Avenue.

If you would like to establish a U.S. bank account where you can deposit your fellowship check, you may do so at the institution of your choice. The University Federal Credit Union (UFCU), located across the street from the Ransom Center, is the nearest full-service bank.

## III. Insurance

Please be aware that all J-1 visa holders must meet medical insurance requirements and will be asked to present proof of their coverage during their orientation with the Texas Global (see following section for details). If you do not have sufficient coverage, you may purchase the university's health insurance plan. For further details, visit <https://global.utexas.edu/issv/advising-services/insurance>. Questions may be directed to the Texas Global's Insurance Advisor using [intlinsurance@austin.utexas.edu](mailto:intlinsurance@austin.utexas.edu).

## IV. Scheduling an Orientation with the Texas Global

All J-1 scholars **must** attend an orientation with Texas Global, the university's international office, upon their arrival in Austin. During this orientation, an advisor will validate your J-1 status and verify your insurance coverage. The orientation will also provide information concerning visa regulations, taxes, banking, and SSN/ITIN applications. These orientations normally last one hour. Please schedule your orientation in advance of your arrival at <https://global.utexas.edu/issv/immigration/j-1> (and select the earliest appointment available).

## V. Applying for a U.S. Tax Number

J-1 visa holders are generally eligible for a U.S. Social Security Number (SSN). If your J-1 program is longer than 30 days and you do not already have a U.S. SSN or ITIN (Individual Taxpayer Identification Number, for those ineligible for an SSN), you **must apply for an SSN during your visit and will not receive payment until after the number has been issued**. Due to the application timeline, this may result in a **payment delay of approximately three weeks**. You will be eligible to apply for an SSN after you have been in the U.S. for at least 10 days. The SSN is typically issued within the week following your application, and your fellowship payment will be available within 5 business days of the SSN being received. Please note that all payments must be processed by the university's Office of Accounting and are subject to delays over which we have no control. **We recommend that all fellows arrive with enough funds for their entire visit.**

Even if you are not required to apply for an SSN to receive your fellowship payment, you may still wish to apply for a U.S. tax number (SSN or ITIN) during your visit to facilitate the process of filing a U.S. tax return. Tax returns are filed in the spring of the year following a U.S. payment. A U.S. tax number (SSN or ITIN) is required for filing U.S. tax form 1040NR or 1040NR-EZ, which should be filed by any individual whose U.S. income (including this fellowship payment and any other payments from U.S. sources) in a given year is greater than the "personal exemption" set by the U.S. government. Even if your U.S. income for the year is less than the personal exemption, you may also choose to file 1040NR/1040NR-EZ to claim a refund on your tax withholding (see pages 17–18 for details.)

**To apply for the SSN** (for those with a J-1 program of at least 25 days), you must visit the Social Security Administration Office no less than 10 days **after** entering the U.S. and 3 days after attending your orientation with the Texas Global, and no less than 15 days **before** your J-1

program ends. The Social Security Administration Office is located five miles from the Ransom Center; you will be provided with detailed instructions for your application, including relevant bus route information, during your visit. If you are visiting for less than 25 days, you are generally ineligible for an SSN because of the application requirements and timeline and can apply for the ITIN (see below). Please see <https://global.utexas.edu/iss/life-at-ut/ssn> for information about applying for the SSN. Please note that the per the SSN application form (“SS-5”) you will be required to present an original or certified copy of your birth certificate as part of the application process.

**To apply for the ITIN** (for those with a J-1 program less than 25 days), you may schedule an ITIN application appointment with Texas Global during your fellowship residency. Please schedule this appointment at [global.utexas.edu/iss/life-at-ut/ssn](https://global.utexas.edu/iss/life-at-ut/ssn) in advance of your visit due to the limited appointment times available. If you do not apply for the ITIN during your fellowship residency, you may alternatively apply by completing and submitting form W-7, along with a copy of your passport that is certified by the passport-issuing agency, when filing form 1040NR/1040NR-EZ during the spring of the year following your payment. You are responsible for making arrangements to obtain the certified copy of your passport by this time.

## VI. Taxes

International scholars receiving payment from the university are **subject to a 14–30% nonresident tax withholding**. Upon your arrival to the Ransom Center, the university’s Office of Accounting will ask you to complete a tax summary report through “Sprintax,” a tax compliance software system, to verify the tax rate that will apply to your fellowship payment. The withholding will be 14% if you hold an appropriate visa status for fellowship payments (J-1 or F-1); otherwise, the withholding will be 30%. The Sprintax system will also indicate whether you are eligible to claim any tax treaties, which may result in a tax exemption.

All international fellowship recipients should file U.S. tax forms during the spring of the year following their payment. It is possible to recoup some portion of the 14–30% tax withholding through this process.

Form 8843 should be filed to report your presence in the U.S., regardless of the amount of your U.S. income or tax withholding.

Form 1040NR/1040NR-EZ should be filed by any individual whose U.S. income (including this fellowship payment and any other payments from U.S. sources) in a given year is greater than the “personal exemption” set by the U.S. government. You are not required to file this form if your total U.S. income is less than the personal exemption amount, but you may wish to do so to claim a refund on any taxes that were withheld from your payment(s). The 1040NR/1040NR-EZ must be accompanied by form 1042-S, to be provided by the university around February of the year following your payment. If you do not already have a U.S. SSN or ITIN, required for the 1040NR/1040NR-EZ, you should also submit form W-7 and a copy of your passport that is certified by the passport-issuing agency to apply for an ITIN.

These forms should be filed by April 15 of the spring following the year that your payment was received. If your residency crosses over two calendar years and you receive payment in each, you will need to file forms for each of those years. You will receive a reminder of the tax return process in January of the year following your payment. You will receive the form 1042-S from the university by mail by March 15 of the same year. For guidance related to your tax return, you may visit Texas Global’s tax website, <https://global.utexas.edu/iss/life-at-ut/ssn>, where you will be able to access Sprintax to guide you through the tax return process. Please note that it is not necessary to use the Sprintax filing

system. You may work with a tax preparer or complete your tax return yourself by downloading the aforementioned forms and instructions for their completion at [irs.gov](https://www.irs.gov).

Please note: *Filing federal tax forms is the personal responsibility of each individual. These guidelines reflect information made available by the university's International and Accounting offices and are provided to help you meet your tax filing obligations. **Please be aware that we are not tax authorities and that federal and university procedures are subject to change.***

## Contact and General Information

The Ransom Center is located at 21st and Guadalupe streets, on the southwest corner of The University of Texas at Austin campus and just north of downtown Austin.

**Mailing address:**

Harry Ransom Center  
The University of Texas at Austin  
P.O. Drawer 7219  
Austin, TX 78713-7219

**Shipping (physical) address:**

Harry Ransom Center  
The University of Texas at Austin  
300 West 21st Street  
Austin, TX 78712

**Phone:** 512-471-8944

**Fax:** 512-471-9646

**Web:** [hrc.utexas.edu](http://hrc.utexas.edu)

**Reading and Viewing Room (RVR) Hours:** 9 a.m.–5 p.m. Monday–Saturday

RVR closures listed at [hrc.utexas.edu/visit](http://hrc.utexas.edu/visit)

**Administrative Office Hours:** 8 a.m.–noon; 1–5 p.m. Monday–Friday

## The University of Texas at Austin

**ID Center, Flawn Academic Center (FAC)**

512-475-9400; [utexas.edu/its/fac](http://utexas.edu/its/fac)  
8 a.m.–6 p.m. Monday–Friday

**Gregory Gymnasium (GRE)** Speedway at 21st Street

512-471-1155 or 512-471-6370 (membership); [utrecsports.org](http://utrecsports.org)

Administrative Office Hours: 6 a.m.–1 a.m. Monday–Thursday, 6 a.m.–10 p.m. Friday, 8 a.m.–10 p.m. Saturday, 10 a.m.–1 a.m. Sunday

**Perry-Castañeda (Main) Library (PCL)**

Speedway at 21st Street

**512-495-4350**; [lib.utexas.edu](http://lib.utexas.edu)

Open 24 hours Monday–Thursday, 7 a.m.–11 p.m. Friday, 10 a.m.–11 p.m. Saturday, 11 a.m.–10 p.m. Sunday

**International Student & Scholar Services**

2400 Nueces Street, **512-471-2477**; <https://global.utexas.edu/iss>

## Other

**University Federal Credit Union (UFCU)**

2244 Guadalupe Street, Austin, TX 78705

512-467-8080; [ufcu.org](http://ufcu.org)

9 a.m.–6 p.m. Monday–Friday

**Frost Bank–Frost Tower Financial Center**

401 Congress Avenue, Austin, TX 78701 512-473-4343; [frostbank.com](http://frostbank.com)

**Taxis**

American Yellow Cab: 512-452-9999

Austin Cab: 512-478-2222

**Capital Metro Transit**

512-389-7400; [capmetro.org](http://capmetro.org)

**Emergencies: 911** (no area code required)