



Call for Proposals

2026 Public Humanities Internship Program for Ph.D. Students in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences

Deadline: March 13, 2026

Cosponsored by the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences and the Margaret and Robert Rothman Endowment

GUIDELINES

A. Public Humanities Internship Program Description

The Center for the Humanities and the Public Sphere invites Ph.D. students in UF's College of Liberal Arts and Sciences to apply for paid public humanities internships during Summer A (May 11–June 18, 2026). This doctoral professionalization program places students with external organizations to work on mission-driven projects in areas such as public humanities, dramaturgy, arts administration, and cultural programming. Interns gain hands-on experience, build professional networks, and develop transferable research, communication, and institutional skills by connecting their academic training to meaningful public-facing work beyond the university.

Interns work with a pre-designated site mentor and Associate Director, Dr. Sara Agnelli.

Selected interns are required to attend and participate in the following mandatory meetings and events:

- i. Orientation meeting (scheduled based on cohort availability in late April).
- ii. Three cohort workshops scheduled during Summer A (TBD).

Interested Ph.D. students will apply directly to the Center for the Humanities and the Public Sphere (CHPS).

B. Eligibility

To be eligible, UF Ph.D. students in humanities or humanistic sciences must be enrolled in Ph.D. programs in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences. "Direct admit" students in a Ph.D. program are eligible to apply. To be eligible, Ph.D. students must be in good standing. MA students are **not** eligible to apply.

CHPS uses a definition of the humanities adapted from the [National Foundation on the Arts and the Humanities Act of 1965](#) as the basis for evaluating the relevance of application statements.

C. Course Enrollment and Deliverables

Public Humanities Internship participants will be responsible to enroll full-time in Summer A and will receive 3-credits. Participants must enroll in a 6900 “Internship” course number within their home department, or equivalent course number. S/U grades for the completion of the internship will be submitted by the appropriate departmental graduate coordinator based on reports provided by the site mentor and Dr. Agnelli.

D. Internships

For summer 2026 we offer three internships with the following local organizations:

- [Doctoral Intern in Peacebuilding, Grant Writing, and Public Humanities – River Phoenix Center for Peacebuilding \(Gainesville, FL\)](#)
- [The Lynx Watch, Inc. Intern– The Lynx Watch, Inc. \(Gainesville, FL\)](#)
- [Theatre Program Intern – Hippodrome \(Gainesville, FL\)](#)

Each applicant may only apply to a maximum of **two positions** and must clearly indicate a preference and ranking in each required application statement.

Please carefully read the internship descriptions and the application guidelines prior to preparing your application.

Review the application below, followed by the internship descriptions.

APPLICATION

Submit parts 1 - 3 as a single PDF to Dr. Sara Agnelli at saraclassics@ufl.edu by March 13, 2026.

1. COVER SHEET with the following information:
 - Name
 - Department and email address
 - Name and email address of department chair
 - Name and email address of dissertation advisor (if applicable)
 - Name and email address of graduate coordinator
 - Year in program
 - The internship site that you are applying to (e.g. Hippodrome)
2. STATEMENT OF INTEREST AND QUALIFICATIONS (max. 500 words for A-D) to include the following:
 - A. Describe your interests and/or academic research in relation to the specific internship position.
 - B. Describe your skills and experience in relation to the qualifications for the specific internship position.
 - C. Elaborate on how this experience would benefit your teaching, research, and/or professional goals and aspirations in the humanities.
 - D. **If applying for more than one internship (2 applications maximum per student) indicate your internship preference and ranking in your statement (1-3 sentences)*
3. CV (max. 2 pages)
4. An email declaring the applicant's good standing. This email can be from the unit's graduate coordinator or their program assistant, or the Departmental Chair or Director. This email should be sent to Dr. Sara Agnelli at saraclassics@ufl.edu by March 23, 2026.

Example declaration of good standing and endorsement:

As the (position) in the (Department name) I confirm that (applicant's name) is making good progress as of (date of email). I endorse (applicant's name) application for the 2026 Public Humanities Internship Program.

(electronic signature), (date)

5. If the doctoral student has formally established a dissertation advisor or director, a brief email supporting the application is also necessary (the email may be similar to the template above) and indicate that the dissertation advisor approves of the doctoral student potentially participating in this program.

CRITERIA OF EVALUATION

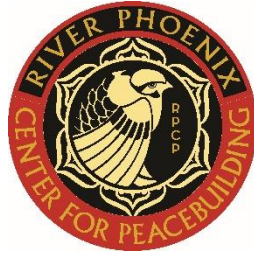
The CHPS Graduate Advisory Board will evaluate applications based on input by the site mentor and the following criteria:

- a. Quality of insight into the relations between interests and/or academic research relevant to the specific internship position.
- b. Student's skills and experience relevant to the position role.
- c. Articulation of benefit to the student's teaching, research, and/or professional goals and aspirations in the humanities.
- d. Overall application quality.

APPLICATION ASSISTANCE

We invite applicants to write to the Associate Director, Dr. Sara Agnelli, at saraclassics@ufl.edu in advance with queries about the 2026 Public Humanities Internship Program or application process. ***Please do not independently contact the host organizations with questions about specific internships, or the application process.***

INTERNSHIP DESCRIPTIONS



Position: Doctoral Intern in Peacebuilding, Grant Writing, and Public Humanities

Location: River Phoenix Center for Peacebuilding (Gainesville, FL)

Site Mentor and Supervisor: Jeffrey Weisberg, Executive Director and Lead Trainer

Organization Description:

The River Phoenix Center for Peacebuilding (RPCP) is a mission-driven nonprofit organization working toward the prevention of conflict and violence, as well as intervention and healing. RPCP's mission is to enrich the lives of individuals, families, and communities by providing and promoting best practices and principles of peacebuilding and global sustainability.

The River Phoenix Center for Peacebuilding addresses conflict and violence through a continuum of prevention, intervention, and restorative strategies involving both youth and adult populations, including those healing from the lasting impacts of trauma. RPCP is dedicated to creating essential societal change by supporting individuals and groups as they take action through programs, services, and training.

For more information, visit the [River Phoenix Center Website](#).

Position Description:

This internship is designed for a PhD student in English or a closely related humanities field, particularly an ABD or advanced-stage doctoral student, whose scholarly interests intersect with narrative theory, rhetoric, trauma studies, ethics, community-engaged scholarship, or public humanities.

The intern will contribute advanced research and writing expertise to RPCP's grant writing and program development efforts, while also assisting with the research and development of a book-length or other major scholarly project grounded in RPCP's peacebuilding philosophy, programs, and community-based work. The position emphasizes reciprocal benefit: strengthening RPCP's organizational capacity while supporting the intern's academic and professional trajectory.

The core responsibilities include:

- Research, draft, and revise grant proposals, concept papers, and narrative materials for foundations and humanities-aligned funders
- Assist organizational leadership in articulating and developing peacebuilding programs, curricula, and initiatives

- Conduct interdisciplinary literature reviews (peace studies, trauma studies, restorative justice, sustainability, rhetoric, narrative studies)
- Support the research, conceptualization, and drafting of a book project or substantial written work emerging from RPCP's mission and practices
- Translate community-based peacebuilding work into compelling, ethically grounded narratives for public, academic, and funding audiences
- Assist with qualitative documentation of program impact and community storytelling

Learning and Development Opportunities:

- Substantial contribution to a book manuscript or major scholarly project
- Practical experience in humanities-informed grant writing and nonprofit development
- Development of a grant-writing portfolio
- Opportunities for co-authorship, acknowledgments, or public-facing scholarship (as appropriate)
- Mentorship in applied humanities and community-engaged peacebuilding work

An ideal candidate will have:

- Demonstrated strength in advanced research, long-form writing, and critical analysis
- Interest in peacebuilding, conflict transformation, trauma-informed practice, or social justice-oriented work
- Ability to work collaboratively in a community-centered, mission-driven environment
- Creativity and innovative thinking, as well as strong communication skills, including the ability to facilitate discussions and engage with diverse audiences
- Previous experience in event planning, marketing, or social media outreach (preferred but not required)

All candidates must:

- Demonstrate excellent organizational and time management skills
- Be able to work independently and collaboratively with RPCP staff
- Show high attention to detail and adherence to organizational best practices
- Effectively manage multiple tasks simultaneously



Position: The Lynx Watch, Inc. Intern

Location: The Lynx, Hybrid

Site Mentors and Supervisors: Jackie Davison, Operations Manager; Viv Schnabel, Events & Community Relations Manager

Organization Description:

The Lynx Watch, Inc. is the nonprofit branch of The Lynx, a general interest bookstore in Gainesville, FL, dedicated to highlighting banned & challenged books as well as uplifting the voices of BIPOC and LGBTQ+ authors. The Lynx Watch, Inc., the store's affiliated 501(c)(3) nonprofit, works to distribute banned and challenged books widely and equitably across the state of Florida, and to bring literary events to Floridians.

For more information, visit [The Lynx Watch, Inc Website](#).

Position Description:

The Lynx Watch, Inc. Intern will assist in the development of the nonprofit organization, with a focus on developing 2026 Gainesville Reads programming and long-term nonprofit planning. Gainesville Reads is our annual month-long reading festival that fosters accessible conversations about literacy and community issues. The programming series culminates in a large, free author event about the selected book. The Lynx Watch, Inc. intern will assist in seeking grant funding, sourcing sponsorships and in-kind donations, marketing the program series, and other related tasks to coordinate Gainesville Reads events. Other nonprofit development tasks will include grant research, writing, and tracking; community outreach and organization of contacts; research and assistance in nonprofit growth; and assistance with nonprofit book donation projects.

Learning and development opportunities:

- Gain hands-on experience in grantwriting, while enhancing critical thinking and creative decision-making skills.
- Learn, organize and execute a major event series, including logistics, scheduling, and vendor coordination.

- Develop persuasive, adaptable communication skills by building connections with community partners across Gainesville.
- Support the mission of expanding access to life-changing literature among under-resourced and justice-impacted communities.
- Work alongside industry professionals, expanding your network and gaining insights into the operational side of arts and culture organizations.

An ideal candidate will have:

- A strong sense of independence and interest in building community within Gainesville.
- A strong interest in literature, and an interest in engaging diverse groups.
- Demonstrated creativity and innovative thinking, with the ability to bring fresh ideas to grant selection, event planning, and audience engagement.
- Strong communication skills, including top-notch writing skills without the use of generative AI, and the ability to develop and foster relationships with many different audiences.
- Previous experience in development/grantwriting, event planning, and nonprofit work preferred but not required.

All candidates must have:

- Excellent organizational and time management skills.
- The ability to work both independently and collaboratively with The Lynx staff.
- A high attention to detail and adherence to organizational best practices.
- The ability to effectively manage multiple tasks simultaneously.

A NOTE ON AI

Please note that The Lynx does not tolerate the use of generative artificial intelligence for any aspect of the writing process, from research to brainstorming to drafting. We are dedicated to defending the creative labor of artists and writers, and cannot condone the role of AI in the theft of intellectual property; the devaluation of original, independent thought; and the destruction of natural resources. We ask that our interns refrain from using AI for any aspect of their role. Thank you for helping us defend creative and intellectual freedom!



Position: Theatre Program Intern

Location: The Hippodrome (Gainesville, FL)

Site Mentor and Supervisor: Gabrielle Byam, Education Director

Organization Description:

The Hippodrome was founded in 1973 by six artists with the goal of presenting the best in challenging, contemporary theatre. The Hippodrome Theatre is committed to artistic excellence in North Florida. Our mission is to collaborate with artists, create productions, education programs, events, and cinematic programming that reflect and elevate the diverse cultures and perspectives of our region, and to create and maintain ongoing engagement with our community.

For more information, visit [The Hippodrome Website](#).

Position Description:

This internship offers humanities doctoral students the opportunity to apply advanced literary research, writing, and pedagogical training in a professional theatre setting. The intern will support dramaturgical research, public-facing writing, and educational programming, translating scholarly work for diverse audiences. Designed as a doctoral professionalization placement, the position introduces students to diverse career pathways in dramaturgy, public humanities, arts administration, and cultural programming while building transferable research, communication, and institutional skills.

The primary responsibilities include:

- Conducting literary, historical, and contextual research to support theatre productions and programs
- Developing dramaturgical and audience-facing materials (program notes, study guides, contextual essays)
- Translating scholarly research into accessible public humanities content
- Assisting with curriculum design for workshops, talkbacks, and educational programming
- Supporting readings, rehearsals, and public events through research and coordination
- Contributing to professional writing such as program descriptions or grant materials

Learning and Development Opportunities:

- Apply doctoral-level research and literary analysis in a professional theatre and public humanities context
- Develop skills in dramaturgy, knowledge translation, and public-facing writing
- Gain experience in curriculum design and community-based education beyond the traditional classroom
- Build transferable competencies relevant to diverse career pathways in arts administration, cultural programming, and nonprofit work
- Receive mentorship from theatre professionals and document outcomes for professional portfolios and funding reports

An ideal candidate will have:

- Strong training in literary analysis, research, and critical writing
- Interest in theatre, performance studies, dramaturgy, or public humanities
- Ability to translate scholarly research for non-academic audiences
- Experience or interest in teaching, curriculum development, or community engagement
- Creativity and innovative thinking, as well as strong communication skills, including the ability to facilitate discussions and engage with diverse audiences
- Previous experience in event planning, marketing, or social media outreach (preferred but not required)

All candidates must:

- Demonstrate excellent organizational and time management skills
- Be able to work independently and collaboratively with Hippodrome staff
- Show high attention to detail and adherence to organizational best practices
- Effectively manage multiple tasks simultaneously