

Previous Summer Opportunities in Arts & Humanities: Inspiration for Future Projects

This list showcases the types of opportunities and programs that previous students have pursued with funding from the Arts and Humanities Division. While not exhaustive, it reflects the wide range of projects and programs that have been supported over the years.

Please use this list as a source of inspiration and guidance as you develop ***your own distinct proposal***. The projects and programs listed are meant to demonstrate the breadth of possibilities rather than to serve as templates for replication. Each student's experience and interests are unique, and your proposal should reflect your personal academic goals and creative vision. While it can be helpful to see what others have done, it is essential that your proposal be original and not a continuation of or closely modeled on a past student's approved project. Independent projects should reflect your own ideas, goals, and creativity, rather than building directly on the work of others. Additionally, some opportunities may have specific eligibility requirements, such as work authorization, but many remain accessible to all students regardless of their status. For detailed information on eligible opportunities, please visit the [Sanctuary at Swarthmore website](#).

To make the most of these opportunities, **students are encouraged to work closely with Arts & Humanities faculty to identify and secure a summer opportunity that aligns with and enhances their academic program.**

Students can find funding sources, application deadlines, and submission details by following this link: <https://www.swarthmore.edu/academic-division-opportunities/arts-humanities-division>

DEPARTMENT	TYPE OF PROGRAM	DETAILS
Art	Internship	Working with a scholarly journal focusing on socially-engaged art, this project interviewed Black Lives Matter activists about experiences, practice, and art, and how different artistic strategies worked with social activism.
Art	Internship	Student completed an eight to ten week internship with an architectural firm. Divisional funding was used to cover costs of living while gaining real-world experience and development of practical skills.

Art	External Program	A graphic design course in Denmark to compliment a studio arts major. This course covered costs of living and workshop fees, and served to supplement the student's Swarthmore major with skills offered elsewhere.
Art	Independent Creative Project	Funding was used for a photography documentary project exploring self-identity in marginalized communities. The grant covered the cost of photography equipment and urban travel.
Art History	Independent Research Project	Building on a previous internship with an architectural preservation non-profit National Trust for Historic Preservation, funding was used to explore public housing in Boston at the connection between housing scarcity and historic preservation needs.
Art History	Internship / Mentorship	Summer art conservation internship working under the supervision of a mentor in a museum to develop skills for graduate school programs. Grants covered housing and costs of living while in internship.
Art History	External Program	Funds used to support a three-week intensive design program focusing on landscape architecture.
Art History	Independent Research Project	Support for research into Asian American queerness with the goal of creating a paper for publication in interdisciplinary fields, using readings and visual arts.
Classics	External Program	Ten-week Basic Latin program to increase reading proficiency in order to enter upper-level Swarthmore courses during the academic year.
Classics	External Program	Immersive Italian program to rapidly develop language skills, in preparation for a study-abroad year.
Classics	Independent Research Project	Funds to prepare senior Classics research on artistic methods used by propaganda in Mussolini's Italy.

Classics	Internship	Supported fieldwork at an archeological dig site on the Tuscan Coast to develop hands-on skills in digital field recording, restoration/conservation, and analysis.
Dance	Internship	Summer internship at a domestic university's ballet program combined with literature review for senior thesis in Dance.
Dance	Independent Research	Student sought to combine attendance at an intensive dance program with independent research in notation. Several programs were applied to both domestically and internationally, which would form the bedrock of Honors senior project.
Dance	External Program	Funding for two separate summer programs and visits to national taiko drumming summit, and in-person hula courses in Hawaii as part of research for an independent major.
Dance	External Program	Funding for two separate 10-week summer study, training, and performance program with professional taiko drum ensemble and its academy in Sydney, Australia.
Dance	External Program	Funding used to support a six week intensive French language program to build on material and skills from Swarthmore courses in order to participate in workshops in the original language.
English Literature	Independent Research Project	On-site historical and archival research on the history of a historic site of feminist activity, yielding an original collection of short stories.
English Literature	External Program	Participation supported enrollment in an intensive creative writing workshop. Funds were used to attend workshops and continue development of a piece produced in an advanced poetry seminar.
English Literature	Internship / Mentorship	Archival work and assistance to a filmmaker working with Palestinian visual narratives for senior thesis and on-campus advocacy work.

English Literature	Independent Creative Project	Funding used to support the drafting of an original allegorical novel, combining creative writing with Religious Studies background.
English Literature	Internship	Ten-week internship in sports journalism with a city newspaper.
Film and Media Studies	Independent Creative Project	Support for the creation of a documentary film on Chinese voguing practitioner and ballroom scenes in the US, made in collaboration with an artist outside of Swarthmore.
Film and Media Studies	Internship	Support in attending a 10 week, 40 hour a week broadcast production internship; funding primarily supported relocation costs and transportation support.
Film and Media Studies	Internship	Housing and travel support to connect with experts in the field during the development processes of creating historically-accurate media. Student provided production assistance and creative consulting to video reels developed by academics with an organization that connects academia and mass media.
Film and Media Studies	Internship	Ten-week summer internship with filmmaker in Los Angeles to develop advanced script writing skills and knowledge of pre-production. Part of work for internship formed the basis of FMST Capstone.
Modern Languages and Literatures - Arabic Studies	External Program	Ten-week language immersion program in Rabat, Morocco. Study of Moroccan dialect and Modern Standard Arabic at Qalam wa Lawh.
Modern Languages and Literatures - Arabic Studies	External Program	Ten-week language immersion program (two 5 week sessions) at Sijal Institute in Amman, Jordan. Focus on learning both Jordanian Dialect and Modern Standard Arabic.
Modern Languages and Literatures - Arabic Studies	External Program	Eight-week language immersion program at Qasid Institute in Amman, Jordan. Curriculum can focus on Arabic Dialect Studies, Modern Standard Arabic, or Classical Arabic.

Modern Languages and Literatures - Arabic Studies	External Program	Summer immersion program with the Noor Majan Arabic Institute, building on a previous summer program in language immersion and coursework at Swarthmore. This program included work on both Modern Standard Arabic and the Omani dialect, providing a broader geographical survey of the language.
Modern Languages and Literatures - Chinese	External Program	Funds used to support participation in the International Chinese Language Program in Taipei, Taiwan, which offers both language immersion and courses in history, culture, and current affairs of the Sinophone world.
Modern Languages and Literatures - Chinese	External Program	Support for participation in the online summer course in Mandarin offered through Princeton in Beijing. Grant was able to cover registration fees, textbooks, and computer upgrades needed for online participation.
Modern Languages and Literatures - French and Francophone Studies	External Program	In preparation for a semester abroad, funding was used to support participation with Academic Program Abroad (APA) in Paris. In addition to language and cultural immersion, the summer intensive program connected students with their host family during the semester of off campus study.
Modern Languages and Literatures - French and Francophone Studies	External Program	A 6 week immersive language program through the Bryn Mawr Institut d'Avignon, which pairs art and culture alongside language immersion and a stay with a host family.
Modern Languages and Literatures - German Studies	External Program	Support for the 7 week summer immersion program in German through the Middlebury Language Schools.
Modern Languages and Literatures - German Studies	External Program	Travel and funding support for a month stay in Germany and participating in a university language immersion course. Funds provided coverage for travel, living expenses, and course registration.
Modern Languages and Literatures - Japanese	Internship	Funding used to support work on an organic farm in Japan for 8 weeks through an international non-profit farming organization.

Modern Languages and Literatures - Japanese	External Program	Participation in the online version of the Kyoto Consortium Summer Modern Japanese program (KCJS) to connect with an Honors major in language and culture.
Modern Languages and Literatures - Russian	External Program	A student traveled to Yerevan, Armenia, to study Advanced Russian Language.
Modern Languages and Literatures - Russian	Independent Research	Support for summer research and the development of a Comparative Literature thesis on American magical realism and Russian phantasmagoria, guided by a Swarthmore faculty member.
Music	External Program	Funds to support the participation in one of three potential programs and festivals in music performance.
Music	Independent Research Project	Funds supporting travel and ethnographic fieldwork in Buenos Aires, Argentina on the subject of tango musicians and dancers. Study included the attendance of live music events, historical work in archives, and performance practice.
Music	Mentorship / Internship	Eleven-week internship with folklorist, singer and lecturer at a university in the United Kingdom, transitioning into a volunteer internship at a national museum specializing in cultural heritage.
Music	Independent Creative Project	Working with a fellow Swarthmore student, serving as librettist, the funds were used in the support of writing a full-length opera.
Music	Independent Research Project	An analysis of how meter is constructed in the metal genre and how the genre has historically evolved to further develop it. Research to include travel to a four day conference in British Columbia to explore musicology, theory, and psychoacoustics in preparation for senior comprehensive.
Music	External Program	Student's participation in a summer musical performance program in Thessaloniki, Greece for the study of opera performance and production.

Philosophy	Outside Research Project	Funding to conduct research work with a non-profit legal organization to reform doctrines that shield public servants from accountability.
Philosophy	Independent Research Project	Building off of content covered in an advanced seminar, funds used for an open-ended, self-directed exploration of the advanced topics in epistemology to use as the basis for senior thesis.
Philosophy	Faculty-Student Joint Research Project	With the guidance and mentorship of Professor Alan Baker of the Department of Philosophy, funds supported a research project on philosophy of applied mathematics and mathematical explanation. This project uniquely spanned through the Humanities' and Natural Sciences' Departments.
Religion	Faculty-Student Joint Research Project	Research and writing with the mentorship of Swarthmore Professor Ellen Ross in the Department of Religion with the goal of producing a publishable paper.
Religion	Independent research project	With the goal of producing a publishable paper, the grant covered housing, transportation, and research materials for 10 weeks while researching Central Asian voices in philosophy and climate ecology.
Religion	Independent Research Project / Mentorship	Fourteen-weeks of work in Egypt on Sufism and Sufi philosopher Ibn Arabī, including different Islamic research centers, museums and historic sites.
Religion	Independent Research Project / External Program	Combining research on Simone Weil's works and French reading courses at the University of Pennsylvania into work that serves as the foundation for a senior honors thesis.
Spanish	Internship	Work with a queer Latinx social justice non-profit in Philadelphia, providing translations for materials and outreach for LGBTQ+ identifying refugees and asylum seekers.

Spanish	External Program	Funding for summer language study, which combines courses on contemporary Spanish culture while interning 20 hours per week with a professional organization.
Spanish	External Program	Funding for a five-week Intensive Spanish Language and Culture summer program in Spain.
Spanish	Independent Research Project	Research and fieldwork in Mexico City to inform thesis on queer Mexican culture and develop skills for graduate school admission. Funding was used to support travel to archives and museums to access primary source materials and films.
Theater	Faculty-Student Joint Creative Project	Development of a full-length play under the guidance of Professor Adriano Shaplin in the Theater Department as thesis for Honors major. The goal was to have the finished play performed by industry professionals in Philadelphia.
Theater	Mentorship / Internship	Ten-week mentorship with New York City theater director, assisting in the development of a new creative project. Funding covers housing, living expenses, and transportation.
Theater	Independent Research Project	Funding for continued work and development of an immersive media exhibition in conjunction with a national institute for natural sciences
Theater	Internship	Directing internship at a summer Shakespeare festival performance, working with the director of one particular play. Roles are primarily in attending all rehearsals and prediction meetings, assisting with staging, character work, notes, and errands.

Summer Language Immersion Programs

The following list of language programs that have been approved for funding by the Arts and Humanities Academic Division in previous summers. These programs include courses for which language credit may be granted; however, it is the student's responsibility to confirm that credits from any summer program will transfer back to Swarthmore College. Students who study abroad or attend one of the listed U.S.-based programs during the summer may receive up to one credit for their coursework.

In addition to the listed programs, students may explore other language programs that align with their academic goals, but these must be approved in consultation with a faculty member from the appropriate department to ensure eligibility for funding and credit transfer.

Another key consideration for students is that summer language programs are not covered by Swarthmore College financial aid, meaning students are responsible for the full tuition cost. However, funding from the [Arts and Humanities Academic Division](#) can help offset these expenses and should be applied for concurrently. While acceptances to language programs are not required at the time of funding application, proof of acceptance will be necessary if funding is awarded to confirm attendance. Any student funded for an international program must complete the Travel Registry process through the Global Engagement Office.

Students must work closely with the appropriate language faculty to develop a plan that aligns with their academic program and language learning goals before applying for any funding.

LANGUAGE	PROGRAMS
Arabic	Birzeit University Palestine and Arabic Studies Program Qasid Arabic Institute Sijal Institute for Arabic Language
Chinese	Princeton in Beijing Harvard Taipei Academy Taiwan Intensive Summer Language Program Middlebury College Summer Language Schools
Classics (Greek, Latin, Sanskrit)	CUNY Summer Language Institute Berkeley Summer Language Programs Middlebury College Summer Language Schools

French	<p>Bryn Mawr in Avignon Université de Caen Université de Sainte Anne Middlebury College Summer Language Schools Paris Academic Programs Abroad</p>
German	<p>Georgetown-at-Trier University Middlebury College Summer German School Kapitel Zwei Sommerhochschule in Wien (Universität Wien)</p>
Japanese	<p>Princeton in Ishikawa Kyoto Center for Japanese Studies Summer Program Nanzan University Summer Program Middlebury College Summer Language Schools</p>
Russian	<p>While some international programs have been suspended, domestic programs are still a good option to continue learning.</p> <p>Middlebury College Summer Language Schools Bryn Mawr Russian Language Institute</p>
Spanish	<p>Torcauto di Tella Universidad de Granada Duke in Spain Boston University in Madrid Alcalá de Henares, Universidad de Alcalá Fundación Ortega Marañón Middlebury College Summer Language Schools</p>