
National Humanities Center Summer Residency: Guide for Institutional Sponsors

Due to overwhelming demand and limited capacity, the NHC Summer Residency Program has moved to a **competitive application and review process**. Please use this guide to select and endorse your strongest candidates for nomination.

Program Logistics at a Glance

- **Total Slots Available:** 40 for Summer 2026.
- **Maximum Nominees Selected Per Institution:** Two.
- **Note:** President's Circle sponsors are guaranteed one slot.
- **Process Change:** Nominees are no longer accepted on a first-come, first-served basis. Selection is based on the strength of the application materials. *Nominees must use the application link they are sent in order to apply.*
- **Institutional Endorsement:** The required **Letter of Endorsement** from an administrator must include a **written commitment of financial support** for the nominee's participation.

Suggested Processes for Nominating Candidates

Each institution may determine their preferred processes for nominating candidates. Two common models are included below. The most effective processes will evaluate candidates according to the Key Evaluation Criteria, shared below.

- **Gauge interest.** Some campuses will find that only a limited number of faculty are prepared to spend a month away during the summer. It is acceptable simply to nominate up to two interested faculty, as long as those responsible for nominations ensure the quality and completion of the applications.
 - **Conduct a local competition.** Many campuses conduct local competitions for programs that will only accept a limited number of applicants per institution. Typically, the administering institutional contact will either 1) make a general call for applications or 2) allow each relevant unit or department to nominate a candidate or two. Keep in mind that internal competitions should be scheduled with sufficient time to evaluate internal applications and select the two most qualified nominees.
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Selecting the Strongest Candidates: Key Evaluation Criteria

NHC evaluators will score every applicant from 1 (lowest) to 5 (highest) on the following five criteria. Please prioritize candidates whose materials clearly excel in these areas.

Criterion	What the Reviewers Look For	Guidance for Your Selection
1) <i>Record of Scholarly Publishing</i>	A strong record of peer-reviewed work, benchmarked against their career stage and discipline.	Select scholars with a distinguished publication history relative to their peers. This should include prominent publications relevant to the project for which they are applying.
2) <i>Effective Work Plan</i>	A well-conceived, realistic, and specific plan for the month-long residency. The proposed work must clearly advance the nominee's larger project goals.	Nominate candidates who present the most focused and feasible plan for one month of work.
3) <i>Preparation for the Project</i>	Clear connection between the proposed project and the nominee's previous work and experience. If the project is a new direction, the nominee must persuasively explain their preparation.	Choose candidates whose background most strongly positions them to successfully complete the proposed project.
4) <i>Program Impact</i>	A persuasive explanation of how the residency will be transformative for their scholarly or career goals and how it will substantially advance their larger project.	Focus on nominees who can articulate a specific, high-stakes benefit from the residency.
5) <i>Community Engagement</i>	The likelihood of the scholar to benefit from and contribute to an interdisciplinary community at the NHC. This is demonstrated by an ability to articulate the larger meaning of their work to scholars outside their field.	Favor candidates whose career trajectory demonstrates broad intellectual curiosity and relevance beyond their specific discipline. N.b., the project topic may be disciplinarily focused. But the scholar should demonstrate 1) a record (service, presentations, etc.) of engaging outside

		their immediate subdiscipline and 2) an ability to articulate the stakes of their scholarly work outside their immediate subfield.
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Essential Application Checklist for Nominees

Nominees will be asked to meet the following requirements when invited to apply:

Component	Length Limit	Primary Requirement
<i>Project Description</i>	1,000 words	Must be jargon-free and focus on objectives, scholarly significance, and originality.
<i>Brief CV</i>	4 pages maximum	Must be highly focused on experience and publications relevant to the proposed project.
<i>Work Trajectory and Plan</i>	500 words	Must detail the project's fit into the career trajectory and include a brief, realistic timeline for the residency.

In summary, the strongest nominees will submit a focused project proposal that is highly prepared for, supported by a strong publication record, and positioned to benefit profoundly from the NHC's interdisciplinary environment.