

Dear Potential Writing Fellow:

This letter aims to prepare you for applying to become a Writing Fellow. Please read it thoroughly and carefully.

Writing Fellows are generous readers and responsive listeners. We “fellow” written assignments by asking the writer questions in the margins of their essay or during a conference. We ask questions so that the writer can clarify, explain, expand and explore their writing. We believe—and our practice reflects—that every work a writer brings us belongs to the voice of the writer.

Writing Fellows major in disciplines across the curriculum and we encourage students in all majors to apply. Crucial to being a Writing Fellow is an ability to connect with peers and to be curious about their work. Writing Fellows are first and foremost advocates for students’ voices.

Writing Fellows staff the Barnard Writing Center, work with attached courses, and host writing workshops throughout the semester. In the past we have been attached to courses in Anthropology, Architecture, Asian and Middle Eastern Cultures, French, Biology, Chemistry, Dance, Economics, Education, English, Environmental Science, History, Philosophy, Political Science, Psychology, Neuroscience, Religion, Sociology, Theatre, and Women’s Studies.

Writing Fellows must commit to working for at least three semesters, one of those being the semester immediately following the training course. If you are applying to be a Science Fellow, this would mean working for three semesters with a science course. Please take this into consideration as you prepare to apply.

Science Writing Fellows are a subset of the Writing Fellows program. They work closely with science professors across departments and apply writing pedagogy to written assignments in science courses. Science Writing Fellows support students with developing tools to describe and interpret data and to use scientific language to communicate their research to the reader. Science Writing Fellows receive the same training as Writing Fellows, which includes exploring a general structure of scientific writing and practicing how to fellow lab reports.

“The Writer’s Process” is a semester-long, 4-credit, workshop in the teaching of writing. It is taught by Professor Cobrin (Director of the Writing Program). Students write a minimum of three essays and submit ongoing reflective writing; they also work with each other’s writing and with that of students in First-Year Writing or First-Year Seminar. Toward the middle of the semester, students begin to help staff the Writing Center. And of course, they read a great deal of theory that influences their practice as a Writing Fellow like: various critiques and considerations about grammar; how to talk with students about their writing; what constitutes a text and who constructs it (the writer? the reader?); exploring a general structure of scientific writing and practicing how to fellow lab reports; and how race, ethnicity and gender influence our writing and reading.

As a writing fellow in training you are not financially compensated, but receive academic credit for your participation in the course. Below is an approximate hourly breakdown of the work that will be required of you in the course. Once you've graduated from the course, the salary for working as a Writing Fellow is \$16/hr.

The Writer's Process: Student Responsibilities

- ❖ Read 1-3 articles/essays/chapters prior to each class discussion;
- ❖ Provide a (brief) reading response for each class;
- ❖ Write 3, approximately 5-7 page papers over the course of the semester;
- ❖ Meet with Professor Cobrin or the Coordinator to conference about each paper; meetings totaling approx. 1-2 hours over the course of the semester;
- ❖ Meet with your peers to conference about each paper; meetings totaling approx. ~10 or more hours over the course of the semester;
- ❖ Work with ~5 students in an attached class on 2 papers; work totaling approx. ~15 hours in total and;
- ❖ Staff the Writing Center for one hour per week, starting in late Fall; ~5-6 hours in total.

All of us in the program believe that becoming a Writing Fellow is a privilege, as well as a responsibility. If you are still intrigued by the idea, we urge you to join us. Follow this link to apply: [Become a Writing Fellow](#). If you have any questions please email writing@barnard.edu.

Sincerely yours,
Professor Pam Cobrin
Director, Writing and Speaking Programs

DaMonique Ballou
Coordinator, Writing and Speaking Programs

Vyoma Sahani
Post-bacc STEM Fellow