

**MULTIFAITH SCHOLARS 2021 PROGRAM**

**Supporting Letter of Recommendation Instructions**

**Program Description and Expectations**

The Multifaith Scholars program was made possible by a grant from the Arthur Vining Davis Foundation in 2016. The program aims to provide a mentored, experientially rich, and intellectually rigorous educational opportunity for juniors and seniors who show great potential as intellectually curious and socially engaged multifaith leaders. Scholarships fund students committed to their own ongoing development and the enhancement of their local and global communities. This is an academically challenging program with opportunities for rich experiential learning with and among peoples of diverse religious backgrounds and commitments. It aims to help prepare students for lives and careers invested in the health of a pluralistic society. A full description of the Multifaith Scholars program can be found on the CSRCS website at [http://www.elon.edu/e-web/academics/studyofreligion/multi-faithscholars.xhtml](http://www.elon.edu/e-web/academics/studyofreligion/multifaithscholars.xhtml).

**Eligibility Requirements**

The Multifaith Scholarship aims to 1) support students with a demonstrated sense of commitment to intercultural dialogue and understanding and 2) provide them the resources and guidance they require to undertake the development of a public intellectual project. Successful applicants will propose and pursue mentored undergraduate research on interreligious topics that have an applied dimension, engage with local communities, or speak in historical or theoretical terms about the nature and character of interreligious encounter. Projects might assess the viability of an ongoing initiative, explore possibilities for new initiatives, develop training or education materials, or otherwise pursue the accumulation of new knowledge about past or contemporary engagement.

* Applicants shall be in their second year at Elon (or, in the case of students with transfer credits, their second year of higher education, with at least one full semester completed at Elon).
* Applicants shall demonstrate a cumulative GPA of 3.0 or above at the time of the application deadline.
* Applicants must declare an Interreligious Studies Minor or Religious Studies major before the term that the grant begins
* Students across all majors are encouraged to apply

**Instructions and Guidelines**

Detailed and thoughtful letters of recommendation greatly assist the selection committee in its deliberations, and your efforts on behalf of the applicant are greatly appreciated. Applicants need to have two letters of support, the second of which is **this supporting letter of recommendation** submitted by you as an Elon faculty or staff member or other figure who can describe and assess the applicants interest in and/or previous work on multifaith issues. Please attach a letter of approximately 500 words that describes your relationship with the student and addresses both the accomplishments the applicant has already demonstrated and those qualities that speak to their promise for meeting the expectations of the Multifaith Scholars program. It would be especially helpful if your letter could address such things as:

* the student’s preparation and suitability for undertaking this research project, including specific training, skills, experiences, and so forth.
* contributions the student might make to the program, including to the cohort of scholars and the program’s community engagement initiatives.

Please send an electronic copy of your letter to MFS Director, Dr. Amy Allocco at [aallocco@elon.edu](mailto:aallocco@elon.edu) by Mar. 22, 2021.