



**Graduate Student Curatorial Fellowship Program for the 2024-25 Academic Year
The Virginia Fox Stern Center for the History of the Book in the Renaissance**

Overview

The Virginia Fox Stern Center for the History of the Book in the Renaissance welcomes applications for its second Graduate Student Curatorial Fellows cohort during the 2024-25 academic year. The purpose of the Stern Center Curatorial Fellows program is to offer PhD students in the humanities at JHU a more intensive engagement with pre-modern and early modern rare book and manuscript materials and enhanced opportunities to develop an understanding of the history and culture of material texts in a hands-on research and curatorial environment. The program will also present substantive experience in building public-facing

interpretive skills and content development around the early book collections of the Sheridan Libraries—both physically and within the digital environment. These activities will also provide members of the cohort the opportunity to develop critical professional skills that may also be useful as doctoral students prepare for the evolving academic job market. The work produced by the Fellows will, in turn, enhance the profile and use of the early book and manuscript collections at JHU in ways that complement each Fellow’s formal graduate training with hands-on curatorial experience. Successful applicants will commit to working the equivalent of one full day per week during the Fall and Spring terms of the 2024-25 academic year (i.e., August 26-December 19, 2024; January 21-May 13, 2025).

The core of the cohort’s work will consist of the following:

- **Fridays Collaborative:** Fellows will collaborate with one another, and with Stern Center curatorial staff, for the equivalent of one full day per week at the newly renovated Stern Center facility at the Evergreen Museum & Library. The designated days for this collaboration will be Fridays, 10 am to 5 pm. Fellows with teaching commitments on Fridays may make up missed hours on other days of the week. Fellows are also welcome to bring their work into the Center on other weekdays, by prior arrangement with Stern Center curatorial staff. A syllabus will be provided at the beginning of each semester. Coffee and lunch will be provided every Friday by the Stern Center.
- **Curatorial Seminar:** A weekly, hands-on, collections-focused interdisciplinary seminar with Stern Center staff on Fridays, focusing on a range of topics relevant to the history of the book and rare book curatorship. Topics will include: recent trends in the scholarship of material textuality; topics in critical bibliography; the history and development of rare book and manuscript collections; material conservation and preservation; rare book pedagogy; and public-facing exhibition curatorship. The specific content of these discussions will be tailored to the particular academic interests of the students in the cohort.
- **Active participation in the Center’s events, including visiting lecturers and visiting research fellows programs, Master Classes, and international symposia.**
- **Attendance at the New York Antiquarian Book Fair with Stern Center curatorial staff.**
- **Conception and production of illustrated essays on items in the Ephemeral Renaissance Collection for the Stern Center website.**

Those Stern Center Curatorial Fellows who do not graduate in May 2025 will also be offered the opportunity to serve as mentors to subsequent cohorts of Fellows, helping them to navigate the rich early book and manuscripts collections at JHU, and integrate rare books and archival materials into their own research. Past and present Curatorial Fellows will also be welcome and

able to work in the Stern Center facility whenever the Center is staffed between Mondays and Thursdays, which can be arranged by prior appointment.

Eligibility

Currently enrolled doctoral students from any of the Humanities departments of the Krieger School of Arts and Sciences, as well as the Institute for the History of Medicine, are eligible to apply. Preference will be given to applicants at advanced stages in their programs (i.e., to those who have completed their required coursework and are either reading for their qualifying exams or working exclusively on their dissertations), and to students whose research can be most clearly supported by the pre-modern and early modern rare book and manuscript collections of the Sheridan Libraries at JHU.

Stern Center Curatorial Fellows will be provided a quiet, naturally lit, newly renovated office space in which to work in the Stern Center rooms at the Evergreen Museum and Library, as well as a profile page on the Stern Center website. Fellows must remain in residence in Baltimore for the duration of the fellowship period, and commit to the full nine-month fellowship period. Successful applicants will also be awarded \$5,000 each, payable over the full period of their Fellowship in four separate \$1,250 installments, paid out at the beginning and end of each semester. Interested applicants are strongly encouraged to discuss this opportunity with Stern Center Postdoctoral Fellow, Daniel McClurkin (sterncenter@jhu.edu), prior to submitting an application.

Application Procedure

To apply for this fellowship, please send as attachments in a single e-mail: (1) a letter of application (not to exceed 1,500 words) describing how your participation in the Curatorial Fellows cohort will compliment your research and professional goals; (2) a current CV; (3) your JHU graduate school transcript. You must also request from your departmental faculty advisor, (4) a confidential letter of recommendation that also confirms the applicant's commitment to fulfilling all the requirements of the fellowship. This confidential letter of recommendation must be sent directly by the applicant's faculty advisor to the Director of the Stern Center, Earle Havens (sterncenter@jhu.edu). **The application deadline for this fellowship opportunity will be Monday, March 15, 2023 at 5 pm.** Notification of the outcome will be reported during the week of March 25.