



The Russell Kirk Center *for Cultural Renewal*

Residential Fellows Program

The Fellows Program

The Residential Fellows Program at the Russell Kirk Center is directed toward students and scholars who are pursuing studies in the thought and related concerns of Russell Kirk. This unique residential program provides housing to Fellows who will live in Mecosta for a semester or two. Modest grants are available for Resident Fellows to support their travel and living expenses during the summer, fall, and spring programs.

Fellows use their time in residence to work on theses, articles, and books. They share and develop their ideas within a broader community of scholars. In addition to the opportunities for discussion that emerge naturally within a residential community, the Fellows Program offers:

- A schedule of seminars co-sponsored with such national organizations as the Intercollegiate Studies Institute and several colleges and universities
- Regular “in-house” seminars on topics related to the work of Residential Fellows
- Discussion of selected works by Russell Kirk
- Academic guidance from the Center’s Senior Fellows either by arrangement or when they are in residence
- Lectures by visiting scholars from a variety of disciplines.

In addition to their own projects, Resident Fellows are required to:

- Deliver at least one seminar presentation each term
- Provide a report on the residency at the conclusion of their stay
- Participate in seminars and lectures hosted by the Center

Research Facilities and Accommodations

The Russell Kirk Center offers lodging, utilities, and access to its library, research facilities, connections with a wide network of related organizations, and academic companionship.

Set on five acres of Russell Kirk’s ancestral property in Mecosta, Michigan, the Center comprises six main buildings:

- The Italianate home of Russell and Annette Kirk, which also houses the Center’s offices.
- A library building housing more than 10,000 volumes. Open to all Resident Fellows, this historic building is furnished with private study areas, a periodicals room, and internet access.
- Four residential houses for Fellows and Visiting Scholars, each situated within easy walking distance of the library.



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Local Information

The village of Mecosta, a short walk from the Center, has a post office, a good used bookshop, and an excellent township library, as well as a number of convenience stores.

The university towns of Big Rapids and Mount Pleasant are a 30-minute drive from Mecosta.

The Gerald Ford International Airport in Grand Rapids is an hour's drive.

Fellows are advised to bring their own vehicle as Mecosta is set in a rural area.

Logistics

The Residential Fellows program is organized on an academic term basis: spring, summer, & fall. During each term, Fellows usually reside in Mecosta for three or four months.

A modest grant accompanies the residency; the amount varies by the length of stay and how the work to be accomplished relates to the mission of the Center.

Application Procedures

The Residential Fellows Program is open to any student who has completed a bachelor's degree, but preference is given to students who are preparing for, or writing, a master's thesis or doctoral dissertation and to scholars on sabbatical.

Fellowship applications are accepted on a rolling basis. For an applicant to be considered by the director of the Fellows Program, their research proposal must be relevant to the Center's mission and of a high academic standard. In addition, all applicants must be interviewed by the director either in person or by telephone.

Contents of Application

If you are interested in this program and believe you have the necessary qualifications, please submit an application packet with the following items.

1. Résumé including name, address, e-mail, telephone, and photo
2. Description of research to be conducted as a Resident Fellow
3. Two references (one of them academic)
4. Intellectual biography or personal statement
5. A recent sample of your writing

Applications should be sent to info@kirkcenter.org or:

Residential Fellows Program
The Russell Kirk Center for Cultural Renewal
P.O. Box 4
Mecosta, MI 49332