



THE
RUSSELL KIRK
CENTER
FOR CULTURAL RENEWAL

The Wilbur Fellows Program

The Residential Fellows Program at the Russell Kirk Center is directed toward students and scholars who are pursuing studies in the thought of Russell Kirk and the tradition he represents. This unique residential program provides housing to Fellows who will live in Mecosta from one week to a few months. Modest grants are available for Resident Fellows to support their travel and living expenses. Fellows are generally accepted for a duration of time in the Fall, Spring, or Summer terms.

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 Piety Hill Seminars co-sponsored with such national organizations as the Fund for American Studies 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 during their fellowship.
- Provide a report and presentation on the residency at the conclusion of their stay. Upon completion of the residence, each Fellow should provide a copy of their paper or a brief report to the Center.
- Fellows are also expected and invited to participate in and help conduct seminars, lectures, events, and general activities at 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 nine main buildings:

- The Italianate home of Russell and Annette Kirk.
- A library building housing more than 15,000 volumes. Open to all Resident Fellows, this historic building is furnished with private study areas.
- Seven residential houses for Fellows and Visiting Scholars, each situated within easy walking distance of the library.

The Village

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 flexible to accommodate the needs of each person. Fellows are admitted for a duration of time in the Spring, Summer, and Fall seasons. Fellows usually reside in Mecosta for spans ranging from a week to about three months.

In addition to free utilities and housing, fellows receive a modest grant. The amount varies depending on the length of a Resident Fellow's stay.

Application Procedures

The Residential Fellows Program is open to any person 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. In addition, all applicants must be interviewed by the director either in person, phone, or Zoom.

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.

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. A brief intellectual biography or personal statement
5. A recent sample of your writing

Applications and inquiries should be sent to Darrell Falconburg at dfalconburg@kirkcenter.org.