# McElroy Trust

## Fellowship 2026
## UNI SUBMISSION INSTRUCTIONS

**Purpose:**

1. A major objective of the Fellowships is to provide financial assistance to candidates with outstanding graduate school potential, specifically to encourage interest in the pursuit of the Degree of Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D). Please note that the fellowship is not available to students who plan to pursue a professional doctorate such as M.D., J.D. Ed.D., Psy.D or Pharm.D.

2. Each Fellowship will be awarded for a maximum of three years of graduate study. The $12,000 stipend may be renewed for two additional years (a total of $36,000) on the basis of assurance of continuing satisfactory performance. Transcripts and enrollment verification will be required.

**Award process:**

3. The Fellowships will be awarded in the spring for use in the academic year beginning immediately in the fall. The Fellowship Selection Committee will consider deviations in the starting date due to mitigating circumstances; however, the intention is to have two new McElroy fellows enrolled in graduate school each fall.

4. The applicant must be enrolled in one of the following nine participating colleges in Northeast Iowa: Clarke University, Coe College, Cornell College, Loras College, Luther College, Mount Mercy University, University of Dubuque, University of Northern Iowa, and Wartburg College.

5. Potential applicants should contact Professor Bryce Kanago (bryce.kanago@uni.edu) of the Provost's Committee on Competitive Scholarship Mentoring to express their interest and discuss their eligibility. Each UNI candidate must submit his/her application and supporting materials to jessica.moon@uni.edu by **Friday, Jan. 30, 2026**. The applications with supporting materials will be reviewed by the Provost's Committee on Competitive Scholarship Mentoring. One applicant will be selected to forward to the McElroy Fellowship Selection Committee.

6. Once the institutional nominee is selected, the student's name and email address will be provided to the R.J. McElroy Trust at katie@mcelroytrust.org by **February 16, 2026**. The McElroy Trust will send the student an invitation to apply using a digital platform.

7. Fellowship applications are due to the McElroy Trust by **March 31, 2026**. A complete application will include: Online application and a verified transcript of grades, revealing course distribution. The President's office is responsible for forwarding recommendations for their candidate from College/University President, Academic Dean, Major Advisor, and a character/citizenship testimonial. **The McElroy Trust office wishes to receive reference letters and applications for only those nominees who have been selected to represent their college in the McElroy Fellowship competition.**

8. A Fellowship Selection Committee consists of the Trustees from the R.J. McElroy Trust. The Trustees are: Ms. Kathy Flynn, Ms. Sally Hollis, Mr. James B. Waterbury, and Mr. Michael

Young all of Waterloo, Iowa; and Mr. Robert Smith, Jr. of Cedar Falls, Iowa. The committee's responsibility will be to review the application materials and select two applicants as McElroy Fellows. No relative of a committee member and no relative of the Dean or college President is eligible to be a candidate or applicant.

9. In addition to the purpose of the program, the criteria for evaluating applicants is as follows:
    - **a.** Recent graduate or graduating senior - The applicant must have recently completed or will complete his or her degree in a Liberal Arts discipline in time to commence graduate school in the fall semester of the subsequent academic year. **The applicant must be working toward his or her first baccalaureate degree, and not pursuing a Master's degree first.**
    - **b.** Liberal Arts definition - The applicant must be enrolled in or graduated from one of the disciplines in the Liberal Arts curriculum (as identified by the college or university.) This may include but is not limited to: area studies, biological sciences, communications, fine and applied arts, foreign languages, letters, mathematics, physical sciences, psychology, social sciences, interdisciplinary studies, arts and science or general programs.
    - **c.** Academic record - Though there is no minimum standard, academic work must be above average.
    - **d.** Other criteria - Consideration will be given to a candidate's character, leadership, and general interests as expressed by extra-curricular activities that give evidence of initiative, commitment and discipline.

**Obligations of Winners:**

10. Renewal - The Fellowships are awarded annually for up to three years, with the expectation that the second and third years will depend upon the demonstration of successful progress each academic year.

11. For each semester or academic period in which a recipient utilizes funds of his or her McElroy Fellowship, the recipient must submit to the R.J. McElroy Trust office, via our digital platform.
    a. A transcript or report of courses taken and either grades received or progress made verified by the educational institution;
    b. A reference letter by the graduate school Dean or Advisor; and
    c. A statement how the funds have been used or are being used including, in the event that such letter is being submitted in connection with a second or third-year academic period, a request for renewal of the application and grant of Fellowship funds.

12. Where any report or other information indicates that any part of a McElroy Fellowship has been used for an improper purpose, the Trustees of the R. J. McElroy Trust will take all reasonable and appropriate steps either to recover the grant funds or see that remaining funds are correctly applied and that diverted funds are restored. Such appropriate steps will include the withholding of further or other payments in the event that compliance is not immediately forthcoming.