



## Research and Independent Scholarship Engagement (RISE) Fellowship Information for Staff/Faculty Sponsors

### What is RISE?

The Office of Student Affairs is offering the Research and Independent Scholarship Engagement (RISE) Fellowship, a fellowship that supports experiential learning, professional development, and networking opportunities for students. The fellowship includes a stipend of **up to \$2,500** per semester (\$5,000 for summer).

RISE projects should further students' academic interests and/or career development. They may take the form of a paper, performance, or other creative work; a research engagement; a training opportunity; or be purely experiential in nature. RISE projects can, but are not required, to be related to pre-thesis and/or thesis work. All RISE projects must have a designated faculty or staff sponsor.

### What is a staff/faculty sponsor?

Staff and faculty sponsors provide RISE fellows with mentorship, guidance, and support in their experiential learning projects. Each applicant is required to identify one staff/faculty sponsor in order to pursue the RISE fellowship.

Sponsors are expected to work with prospective fellows to craft a project proposal that will center the student's learning and development. If a proposal is approved, the sponsor is expected to offer training and to support their fellow in pursuit, execution, and evaluation of the proposed project.

### What is the difference between supervising student employees and RISE fellows?

The RISE fellowship exclusively supports non-employment based opportunities, and is distinct from campus-based employment opportunities. Applicants to the RISE program may not be employed by the College. RISE is not coordinated through Workday or other student employment channels.

The relationship between the sponsor and fellow should not resemble an employee/employer relationship. The primary purpose of the fellow's engagement is not to perform services, but to engage in experiential learning to benefit the fellow's education and development. The primary purpose of the fellows' project must not be to benefit the sponsor. The RISE fellowship stipend is offered in support of fellows' study, research, learning, and professional development. The stipend does not require that the fellow perform any services, is not compensation for services rendered, and is not considered wages for employment.

Lastly, on-campus employment is limited to students with work authorization and, therefore, is not accessible to all students. The RISE fellowship is accessible regardless of a student's work authorization and immigration status. Failure to establish a proper non-employment based experience for a fellow without work authorization could negatively impact the fellow's future immigration status options in the U.S.

**Questions about the RISE program can be directed to [rise@amherst.edu](mailto:rise@amherst.edu).**