

CES Research Fellows Program Guide

Research Fellows

The Center for European Studies' **CES Research Fellows program** is a research assistantship initiative that pairs undergraduate students with CES faculty members who are interested in working with students on current research projects. The program provides a unique opportunity for students to gain **research experience** while learning the **research methodologies** of various academic disciplines and approaches. Research opportunities with the Center are available in both the **social sciences** and **humanities** fields, allowing students from a range of departments the chance to gain experience that will prepare them for future academic pursuits whether it be the University or CLAS Scholars programs, an honors thesis, or graduate school.

Students will gain hands on research experience in one of the wide range of projects currently pursued by CES faculty. In addition, students will gain a deeper understanding of research methods, practice in public speaking through the end-of-term workshop presentations, networking skills from monthly meetings with faculty and professionals in academics, and improved analytical proficiency through reviews and critical analysis of program-related talks and panels.

Program Requirements

- Approximately 9 research hours per week for the 3-credit option
- Regular meetings with the faculty mentor to review progress and establish research tasks
- Attendance and active participation at monthly Fellows cohort meetings
- Attendance at at least one CES talk, panel, or workshop and submission of a one-page critical review
- Mid-semester and end-of-semester progress reports
- End-of-semester research presentation at the CES Research Fellows Symposium

Course Credit and Time Commitment

Fellows enroll in **EUS 4911** during the semester of the fellowship. The standard option is 3 credits, with approximately 9 hours per week committed to research and program activities. These hours include independent research, meetings with the faculty mentor, cohort meetings, CES events, and the end-of-semester symposium.

A zero-credit option is also available for students who wish to participate without earning academic credit. Zero-credit Fellows participate fully and complete the same program expectations and weekly hours.

Applying for Spring 2027

Priority Deadline: November 30, 2026. Applications are reviewed on a rolling basis, and faculty placements may begin before the application period closes.

Students may apply directly to Dr. Emrah Sahin (emrahsahin@ufl.edu), Research Fellows Coordinator. If there is a faculty member or research project you are especially interested in, you are encouraged to contact that faculty member to discuss your interests and to identify the potential fit before or while submitting your application. Because faculty capacity is limited, applying by the priority deadline can improve the opportunity for a strong match.

Required Application Materials

Prepare the following two documents and submit them with your application:

- **Resume or CV:** A current, one-page resume or CV.
- **Statement of Purpose:** A one-page statement addressing:
 - Why you are applying to the CES Research Fellows Program
 - Faculty research projects or faculty members of interest, if applicable
 - What you hope to gain from the experience
 - Any previous research experience; previous experience is not required

Information to Include

In your application or email to Dr. Sahin (emrahsahin@ufl.edu), please also include the following information so that CES can identify the strongest possible faculty match:

- Semester requested **Spring 2027**
- Name, UF email, college, major, and class standing:
- CES degree program, if applicable (EU Studies or East-Central European Studies certificate/minor):
- Whether the fellowship may be used toward a CES capstone requirement, if applicable:
- How you learned about the program
- Name of a faculty member who has already agreed to mentor you, if applicable
- One or two CES faculty members you would be interested in working with if you do not already have a mentor
- Whether you are open to being matched with another CES faculty member if your preferred mentor is unavailable
- Three specific areas of research interest (for example: a country or region, identity politics, literature, law, the European Union)
- Any previous undergraduate research program experience
- Whether you would like to be contacted about a future cohort if a Spring 2027 match is not available

Submit your materials to: Dr. Emrah Sahin, Research Fellows Coordinator,
emrahsahin@ufl.edu, 3326 Turlington Hall

Faculty-Student Pairings

Students may enter the applicant pool for faculty matching or apply after discussing a potential match directly with a CES faculty member. The Research Fellows Coordinator, in consultation with participating faculty, facilitates matches based on research interests, faculty availability, and project needs. CES cannot guarantee placement for every applicant or a student for every faculty project.

Faculty Mentorship and Supervision

Faculty mentors and Fellows should meet regularly, normally weekly, to discuss research progress, assign tasks, and address questions. At the beginning of the semester, the mentor and Fellow should establish the project's research questions, methods, expectations, and workflow. The program is designed not only to build research skills, but also to create meaningful faculty mentorship that can support students in future academic and professional pursuits.

Progress Reports

Research Fellows and faculty mentors submit separate progress reports at the midpoint and end of the semester. Reports review the collaboration, research progress, work completed, strengths, and areas for continued development. Progress reports factor into the final course grade.

Fellows Cohort and CES Engagement

Fellows attend monthly cohort meetings with the Research Fellows Coordinator to discuss progress, challenges, opportunities, and professional development. Meetings may also feature guests or information about awards, fellowships, research opportunities, and other programs of interest.

Each Fellow must also attend at least one CES talk, panel, workshop, or related event during the semester and submit a one-page critical review addressing the event's central question or concept, research methods, conclusions, and the strengths and limitations of the argument.

CES Research Fellows Symposium

At the end of the semester, Fellows present the research completed with their faculty mentors at the CES Research Fellows Symposium. The symposium provides an experiential learning opportunity to synthesize research, communicate findings to an academic audience, respond to questions, and participate in a wider scholarly community. Additional presentation guidance is provided during the semester.

European Union and East-Central European Studies Credit

With prior approval, EUS 4911 may count toward a CES degree program when the assigned research meets the relevant curricular requirements.

East-Central European Studies

Requirement	Credits	Research Focus	Notes
Elective Course	3	At least 20% of research content must focus on East-Central Europe	Certificate students: 6 elective credits required. Minor students: 9 elective credits required.

European Union Studies

Requirement	Credits	Research Focus	Notes
Core Course	3	At least 75% of research content must focus on the EU; a member state alone does not satisfy the requirement without EU context.	Certificate students: 3 elective credits required. Minor students: 6 elective credits required.
Enhanced Course	3	At least 20% of research content must focus on the EU; a member state alone does not satisfy the requirement without EU context.	Certificate students: 6 elective credits required. Minor students: 9 elective credits required.
Capstone Experience	0-3	Experiential learning beyond degree coursework; more than 50% of the research must focus on the EU.	Minors only.

Grading

- 60 points – Faculty mentor research progress reports and final comments
- 20 points – Research presentation
- 10 points – Attendance at a CES event and written review
- 10 points – Attendance at monthly Fellows meetings
- Total – 100 points

Contact

Dr. Emrah Sahin

Research Fellows Coordinator

Center for European Studies, University of Florida

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