

Name of Your Organization:

Whitman Mission National Historic Site, National Park Service

Proposed Hours of Work/Days of Week:

Monday-3 hours, Wednesday-4 hours, Friday-3 hours (Tentative – subject to the student’s schedule)

Supervisor’s Name and Title:

Timothy Nitz, Superintendent

Mission of Organization:

Whitman Mission National Historic Site is dedicated to the preservation and interpretation of the resources documenting the people and history of the ABCFM mission to the *weyí·letpu·* in the first half of the 19th century. The National Park Service strives to explore and communicate the lasting relevance of these events to society today.

1. Explain how your organization can support the intellectual and professional interests of a Fellow for one academic year, approximately mid-September – mid-December, and mid-January – early May.

The National Park Service is deeply invested in education – this park has a particular interest in cultivating advanced thought and reflection on the ongoing impact of the actions and events that took place at the Whitman Mission. The park supports educational efforts at all levels – fourth grade field trips, volunteer projects on site, and college-level research. The Whitman Mission gives Fellows an opportunity to intern with a branch of the federal government where the Fellow has opportunities to learn and conduct research, practicing and honing important academic and professional skills. The Fellow will gain experience in the areas of public history, the development of the west, and Native American Studies, and will learn skills applicable to a research-based, a resource management and preservation, or an interpretive career.

2. Describe the role of the supervisor and how they will enhance the Fellows learning experience? How much time will be spent with the Fellow?

The Fellow’s supervisor at the Whitman Mission is Timothy Nitz, Superintendent. Nitz has over a quarter century of experience with the National Park Service and in various positions with particular emphasis on tribal consultation and interpretation, and cultural resource management. Nitz’s academic background in English, with graduate studies in Rhetoric, offers opportunities for application of humanities-based theory and practice to issues of history and cultural identification while also providing ability to guide the Fellow in various research strategies. The Fellow interacts directly with Nitz – getting projects and ideas approved, learning from him, and gaining insight into National Park System. Nitz is generally available to the Fellow as both the Fellow and the supervisor work primarily at the park site and the Fellow would have ready access to the Superintendent for much of their scheduled hours. The Fellow also has phone and eMail access to the Superintendent otherwise.

3. Approximately what percentage of work time will be on site? What percent of work will be remote? Please explain what “on site” and “remote” means for this project.

The Fellow will spend most of their time on site, at the Whitman Mission’s visitor center and offices. This time on site would: allow the Fellow to get a good grasp of the site’s history and its relation to Whitman College, give the Fellow more time with his or her supervisor, enable the Fellow to work with the public, and present the Fellow with many research resources that would otherwise be difficult to access. A smaller portion of the Fellow’s time will be spent off site. These hours would be spent either in the Whitman College archives researching through the unique resources available only there, or learning from Cayuse at Tamastlikt Cultural Institute, on the Umatilla Indian Reservation. The hours the Fellow spends off site will be “remote,” thus remote would mean off site work at Whitman College or at the Cultural Institute. Should particular research or program development needs require, additional research repositories are found at Nez Perce National Historical Park (Spalding, Idaho), Washington State University Holland Library, Oregon Historical Society (Portland), Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation (Mission, Oregon), and Oregon State Archives (Salem). The NPS would be responsible for approving and funding travel to these remote repositories if needed.

4. Explain the project or tasks you have for the Fellow. What does it entail?

Whitman Mission National Historic Site and Whitman College share many commonalities: a namesake, a tie to the Walla Walla community, and a rich local history. The National Park Service would like to capitalize on the similarities and the dual histories of the park and of the college to unify them, making each more relevant to the other. That vision would manifest itself in a research based project for the Fellow. Ideally, the Fellow will conduct research at the Whitman Mission as well as at the Whitman College archives and any other necessary locations, and develop a finished project that could be presented to visitors at the park, to the students’ peers at the college, to the faculty and staff at the college, and to the Walla Walla community. The core value to explore throughout this project would be the lasting relevance of the people, culture, and events at the mission site for the Whitman College community, as well as for the nation as a whole. The Fellow will delve into questions such as: what relationship is there between the historic site and the college? How can the college better use the park’s resources, and vice versa?

5. Skills Recommended:

- Personal transportation is *strongly* recommended, but not required
- Basic speaking skills, or a desire to develop better speaking skills
- Academic and community research skills
- Needs to be able to work with the public
- Presentation and analysis of multiple perspectives

6. What will the Fellow contribute to your organization's mission and work?

If the Whitman Mission NHS had a Whitman Community Fellow at the park, the Fellow would bring additional youth and energy to the site. The Fellow's project – researching the connections between the Whitman Mission, Whitman College, and the national implications of that relationship and its continuing relevance – would give the park, college, and nation a unique perspective which would enhance and broaden the views of anyone exposed to it. Part of the park's mission emphasizes continuing to make reflective connections to our past, and by bringing a Whitman Community Fellow to this National Historic Site, the park would be able to make more meaningful connections to a wider audience, not to mention enriching the education and professional career of an enthusiastic student.

To Apply:

- Send a resume and cover letter to Superintendent Tim Nitz (timothy_nitz@nps.gov)
- All applications are due on Monday, September 9th, before 4:00pm.