



PennState
College of the
Liberal Arts

The McCourtney Institute for Democracy

327 Pond Lab, University Park, PA 16802
814-865-0100
democracyinst@psu.edu
democracy.psu.edu

Eleanor Roosevelt Summer Scholarship: Mood of the Nation Poll

Two *Eleanor Roosevelt Scholars* will be selected to conduct research using data from the McCourtney Institute of Democracy's [Mood of the Nation Poll](#). Eleanor Roosevelt Scholars will work with McCourtney Institute of Democracy faculty for eight weeks between June 1 and July 31 on poll-related research.

We expect scholars to be working on this research for approximately 20 hours per week. The research will be directed by poll faculty, though we encourage fellows to develop their own, independent research projects as well.

Specifics

Term: The start and end dates are flexible. Scholars may spread their service over the entire summer.

Scholarship: \$4000 total (e.g., \$2000 scholarship for June and \$2000 for July). Scholarship funds will be deposited directly into student accounts.

The Poll: The MOTN Poll is fielded 3-4 times each year and roughly half of each poll questionnaire consists of open-ended questions. Thus, each poll contains (for N=1000 respondents):

- Traditional survey data
- Metadata (e.g., date/time of interview, time stamps for each survey screen)
- Text data (answers to open-ended questions)
- Geographic data (US states)

Research opportunities: Students will have the opportunity to apply their expertise to one or more kinds of data challenges:

- Text analysis
- Geographic analysis
- Measurement / psychometrics
- Substantive questions on turnout, voting, public opinion, political psychology
- Advanced statistical graphics

How to Apply

Applications are accepted on a rolling basis. Review begins February 15th. Applications will continue to be accepted and reviewed after that date until both scholars are selected. Successful applicants must be enrolled in a graduate program in the College of the Liberal Arts with plans to continue their studies in the College.

Before applying, applicants are encouraged to first view prior poll reports. Recent reports can be found at: democracy.psu.edu/mood-poll. The left-hand navigation on that page also has a link to the Poll Report Archive, which contains previous reports.

Send a CV, transcript, and one-page statement of interest to Michael Berkman, Director of the McCourtney Institute for Democracy, at mbb1@psu.edu.