



# The Russell Kirk Center *for Cultural Renewal*

## **The Russell Kirk Center Residential Fellows Program**

Program and Application Information

### **The Fellows Program**

The Residential Fellows Program at the Russell Kirk Center is specifically directed toward those students and scholars who are pursuing studies in the thought and related concerns of Russell Kirk. This unique residential program provides housing to Fellows who will live in Mecosta for periods ranging from a few months to one year. Modest grants are available for Resident Fellows to support their travel and living expenses during the summer, fall, and winter programs.

Fellows use their time in residence to work on theses, articles, and books. They share and develop their ideas within a broader community of scholars. In addition to the opportunities for discussion that emerge naturally within a residential community, the Fellows Program offers:

- ❑ a schedule of seminars co-sponsored with such national organizations as the Intercollegiate Studies Institute
- ❑ regular “in-house” seminars on topics related to the work of Fellows in residence
- ❑ discussion of selected works by Russell Kirk
- ❑ academic guidance (as desired) from the Center’s Senior Fellows either by arrangement or when they are in residence
- ❑ lectures by visiting scholars from a variety of disciplines.

In addition to their own projects, Resident Fellows are required:

- ❑ to deliver at least one seminar presentation each term
- ❑ to provide a report on the residency at the conclusion of their stay (for foundation reporting purposes)
- ❑ to participate in seminars and lectures hosted by the Center.

### **Research Facilities and Local Accommodations**

The Russell Kirk Center offers residential research facilities, access to a wide network of related organizations, and academic companionship.

Set on five acres of Russell Kirk's ancestral property in Mecosta, Michigan, the Center comprises six main buildings.

- ❑ The Italianate home of Russell and Annette Kirk, which also houses the Center's executive offices.
- ❑ A library building (Russell Kirk's office and library) housing more than 10,000 volumes. Open to all Resident Fellows, this historic building is furnished with private study areas, a periodicals room, and Internet and e-mail access.
- ❑ Four residential houses for Fellows and visiting scholars, each situated within easy walking distance of the library.

Most conferences and seminars are held in the library. The in-house seminar program also includes regular group dinners in the main house with visiting scholars.

The village of Mecosta, five minutes' walk from the Center, has a post office, a good used bookshop, and the county library, as well as a number of convenience stores, gas stations, bars, and restaurants. The university towns of Big Rapids and Mount Pleasant are around half-an-hour's drive from Mecosta.

The closest airports are Grand Rapids Gerald Ford International Airport (85 miles) and Midland Tri-city National Airport (66 miles).

### **Logistics**

The Residential Fellows program is organized on an academic-term basis. The summer program begins in June and continues until late August. During the fall and winter programs, Fellows usually reside in Mecosta for three or four months. Some flexibility is possible with these schedules.

- ❑ Accommodation is provided rent-free for the duration of fellowships. Routine maintenance and repairs are carried out by the Center.
- ❑ Fellows are responsible for their utility, telephone, and other similar domestic bills (there are no water charges).
- ❑ Fellows are strongly encouraged to bring their own computers with them, as there are limited workstations available in the library.
- ❑ Fellows are advised to bring their own vehicle as Mecosta is set in a rural area.

Grants are normally paid on arrival. The standard stipends are

- ❑ \$4,000 for the fall and winter/spring terms
- ❑ \$2,000 for the summer term

### **Application Procedures**

The Residential Fellows Program is open to any student or scholar who has completed a bachelors' degree. Fellowship applications are accepted on a rolling basis. For an applicant

to be considered by the director of the Fellows Program their research proposal must be relevant to the Center's mission and of a high academic standard. In addition, all applicants must be interviewed by the director either in person or by telephone.

### **Contents of Application**

If you are interested in this program and believe you have the necessary qualifications, please submit an application packet with the following items.

1. Name, address, e-mail address, telephone number, and recent (within the last year) photo.
2. Description of research to be conducted as a Resident Fellow.
3. Résumé and two academic references.
4. Intellectual biography or personal statement.
5. A recent sample of your writing.

Applications should be sent to:

Residential Fellows Program  
The Russell Kirk Center for Cultural Renewal  
P.O. Box 4  
Mecosta, MI 49332

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