

Sample Letter to Fellows Before the First Seminar

Dear Spring Fellows,

As we approach the new semester, we wanted to get the conversation started about introducing students to TLH and to the fact that they are now **Mellon TLH Student Scholars**.

We drafted some language you might add to your syllabus to welcome your students into this exciting initiative at CUNY—please feel free to copy and paste this directly into your syllabus if you find it helpful, and to edit it and make it your own!

Welcome! This class with Prof. [Name] is part of an exciting initiative at CUNY called “[Transformative Learning in the Humanities \(TLH\)](#).” TLH focuses on equitable, creative, student-centered teaching. That means that this class is built with you—students—at the center. You are now a “**Mellon Transformative Learning in the Humanities Student Scholar (Spring 2022)**,” simply for showing up to this special class. This title is something you can put on your CV/resume either now, or down the road, to show future employers that you participated in this exciting program by taking this class. Thank you for being you and for being here.

Sometime in the first week of classes, you might tell students that there is no required extra work, but a few voluntary things they can choose to do—and you might offer them extra credit for participating. They may be invited to TLH events (totally optional, not required) and they will be asked to fill out two surveys (a before and after survey which are, again, voluntary) about their experiences learning in college.

Student scholars will receive modest financial aid awards of \$100 per student (in lieu of Metro Cards due to the pandemic). To be eligible, students must be enrolled in classes at CUNY as matriculated students (taking courses for credit either full-time or part-time).

Finally, to get things going in the first weeks of classes, we hope you’ll try some easy ways to break the ice and engage students from the start with a quick [Think-Pair-Share](#) or an Entry Ticket like the one we did in the [Summer Institute](#).

If you have any questions, please reach out to us at TLH@cuny.edu.

Best of luck with preparing for the start of the new year!
The TLH Team