

Mayborn Fellowship in Biography

The Mayborn Fellowship in Biography offers a two- to three-week creative residency in Santa Fe, New Mexico. The fellowship is intended to provide an emerging biographer with solitude and inspiration by providing a concentrated period of uninterrupted time, as well as mentoring by an established biographer.

Renowned author of biographies and narrative nonfiction, **James McGrath Morris**, saw his most recent work, “The Ambulance Drivers: Hemingway, Dos Passos, and a Friendship Made and Lost in War,” published to high acclaim in 2017.

Previously, he spent five years working on “Pulitzer: A Life in Politics, Print, and Power.” Another book, “The Rose Man of Sing Sing: A True Tale of Life, Murder, and Redemption in the Age of Yellow Journalism,” was selected as a Washington Post Best Book of the Year for 2004 and was optioned as a film and released as a Random House Audio Book.

Morris’ work includes a biography of journalist Ethel L. Payne, “Eye on the Struggle: Ethel L. Payne’s Journey Through the Civil Rights Revolution.” He is also the author of “Jailhouse Journalism: The Fourth Estate Behind Bars,” which told the story of the extraordinary inmates in American prisons who published their own newspapers. Aside from books, his writing has appeared in numerous newspapers and magazines, including The Washington Post, The New York Observer, The Progressive, Civilization, and The Wilson Quarterly. He is a founder of Biographers International Organization, where he has served as an officer and board member.

Morris earned his bachelor’s degree from American University and his master’s degree from George Washington University. He spent a decade as a journalist, a decade working in the book and magazine business, and a decade as a high school teacher. Morris and his wife, Patty, live in Santa Fe, New Mexico.

Fellowship applicants are evaluated on these criteria:

- A clearly described, viable biographical project (see next page for biography sample guidelines);
- Proof that sufficient research has been, or will be completed, before the residency so as to be able to use the time for writing; and
- Evidence that the residency could play an important role in the development of the project.

This fellowship includes:

- Free registration to this year’s Mayborn Literary Nonfiction Conference.
- Free registration to next year’s Biographers International Conference.
- Two to three weeks’ creative residency in Santa Fe with mentoring from James McGrath Morris.
- A reading at the end of your stay.
- \$500 to help defray costs.

Recognition of award will be made during the Mayborn Literary Nonfiction Conference’s Saturday night Literary Lights Dinner.

The winner will schedule a residency between October 19, 2021 and October 19, 2022.

To apply for this fellowship:

- Fill in all text boxes below electronically.
- Save the completed document with the title “Mayborn Fellowship in Biography Application – Your Last Name.”
- Email this completed application AND your biography sample in Word or PDF format to mayborncontest@unt.edu with “Mayborn Fellowship in Biography – Your Last Name” in the subject line.

The biography sample should include the following:

- Three sample chapters.
- Chapter-by-chapter synopsis for each chapter in the proposed biography.
 - Each chapter synopsis should be from three to five pages long.
- The entire biography sample needs to be double-spaced.

The application deadline is September 15, 2021 Winner will be notified after October 1, 2021.

Title of biography _____

Author's Name _____

Address _____

City, State, ZIP code _____

Phone _____

Cell Phone _____

Email address _____