The Pennsylvania State Archives
Pennsylvania Historical & Museum Commission

FAQs

- **Who can apply for a Scholar in Residence stipend?** Anyone who is conducting research on Pennsylvania history is eligible to apply.
- **Do I have to do all my work in Harrisburg?** No, but the program is designed specifically for scholars to do their research in the resources of the State Archives during their residency.
- **The State Archives is not open every day. Will I be able to work in the Archives on days when they are closed?** Yes, microfilm only research is available on Monday, Tuesday and Saturday.
- **Where do I find information about the State Archives collections so I can cite them as potential resources?** Please see the Archives website at: https://phmc.info/ScholarsInResidence

- **Does my research have to occur during the state research period?** Yes, the Scholars in Residence program is designed to be a full-time residency program for up to four weeks.
- **Are there places to stay near the Archives during my research visit?** Yes, Harrisburg has many hotels and motels in the near vicinity of the State Archives. Archives staff will be happy to help you identify appropriate hotels.
- **What expenses will the stipend cover?** The stipend can be used for any expenses incurred while the scholar is in residence at the State Archives, including room, board, travel expenses, copying fees, a reasonable stipend and more.
- **Will I have to pay for copies I make while I'm researching?** Yes, if a scholar wants hard copies they will be responsible for the costs incurred; No, if they want scans or prefer to take photos of documents with their own non-flash camera or phone.
- **I'm not an academic; who should write my letters of recommendation?** Someone who has knowledge of your planned project and your ability to carry it to completion.
- **How many scholars will be selected?** That depends on several variables difficult to predict, such as the length of terms requested, the budgets submitted by each applicant, and the available funds. At least 1 scholar will be selected for the 2026 program.
- **How much money can I apply for?** Applicants may apply for up to $800 per week, or $3,200 total.
- **What products do I need to produce as part of my research project?** Scholars will be required to produce the following products: annotated bibliography/final report related to the State Archives collections consulted during residency that can be used to update finding aids and various websites; a feedback survey regarding the SIR experience; and

one of three products to be negotiated with the scholar (1. Journal article or highlight, 2. Website update, or 3. Conference paper).

- **Who is the contact person for the Scholars in Residence program at the State Archives?** Program Coordinator and Archivist Rich Saylor is the primary contact point. He may be reached at RA-PHMCScholars@state.pa.us or 717-705-5785.
- **Who pays the stipend to the scholars?** The Pennsylvania Heritage Foundation will process payments to scholars.
- **Can I donate to help fund future scholars in residence?** Yes! Please contact the Pennsylvania Heritage Foundation at: 400 North Street, Harrisburg, PA 17120; Phone: (717) 787-9123; Email: c-mhull@pa.gov; Website address: https://paheritage.org/
- **Do you prefer emailed applications or applications sent by regular mail?** Please email full applications to RA-PHMCScholars@state.pa.us by March 1, 2027.