



COLLEGE OF BEHAVIORAL & SOCIAL SCIENCES

2023 BSOS Summer Research Initiative & The University of Maryland's 1856 Project

The 1856 Project Statement of Interest Instructions

About The 1856 Project

The University of Maryland's The 1856 Project, led by two faculty members in the Libraries, strengthens the university's commitment to providing a narrative of the University of Maryland's history that embraces its past, stands firm in the challenges and achievements of its present, and lays the groundwork for a liberated future.

The 1856 Project is a member of the Universities Studying Slavery Consortium (USS), an international group of colleges and universities encouraging their campuses to think about their connections to slavery and the slave trade, while addressing historical and contemporary issues surrounding race and inequality in higher education. USS, which is hosted at the University of Virginia, is dedicated to organizing multi-institutional collaboration as part of an effort to facilitate mutual support in the pursuit of common goals around the core theme of "Universities Studying Slavery."

Purpose of the Statement of Interest

The required statement of interest gives you an opportunity to provide a detailed explanation of your education and career goals. The statement of interest helps us better understand how your graduate training and career goals align with the specific missions of The 1856 Project and the BSOS SRI.

Statement of Interest Instructions

Please provide a statement that explains your educational and career goals, as well as your diversity and inclusion interests, experiences, and potential future contributions as described below.

Educational and Career Goals (REQUIRED) The goal of the BSOS SRI 1856 Project is to increase knowledge of, and interest in, doctoral-level training across a spectrum of disciplines, including arts and humanities (e.g. history), social and behavioral sciences (e.g. anthropology), libraries

and information science, and education. Therefore, we are especially interested in those who plan to pursue graduate education. Please describe your 1) plans for graduate training; 2) your specific field(s) of interest and research questions or areas you plan to pursue in graduate school; 3) how your graduate training and career goals align with The 1856 Project; and 4) how you believe The 1856 Project might help you reach your educational and career goals.

Diversity and Inclusion (REQUIRED) The 1856 Project is committed to the exploration of the University of Maryland's institutional ties to the slave trade, to enslavement on our campus or abroad, and to the enduring legacy of racism and discrimination in our educational systems. Please integrate into your statement of interest how you plan to contribute to the mission of The 1856 Project through your research, service, mentoring, or teaching into the future. Please also address any of the following if they pertain to your interests, experiences, and aspirations: 1) promoting greater diversity and inclusion in educational or research settings; 2) or increasing the diversity of the scholars themselves; 3) contributing to research that benefits or addresses diverse, historically oppressed or exploited, or underserved communities; 4) social justice; or 5) research that addresses disparities that impact diverse or underserved communities (e.g., health, educational, economic, etc.).

Additional Guidance

- Your statement should be a maximum of two single-spaced, letter-sized pages, with 1" margins and be 1,200 words or less.
- Please use a 12-point, Times New Roman, Arial, or other easy-to-read font.
- Please separate each paragraph of your statement with a full blank line to prevent your paragraphs from merging once you upload your statement of interest.
- Please prepare your statement in a PDF or Microsoft Word file format.

TIP: Students who explain how their specific areas of interest relate to the research of The 1856 Project are most likely to stand out in our application review process. Therefore, we strongly encourage applicants to visit The [1856 Project website](#) to learn more about it.

For More Information

If you have any questions about The 1856 Project application, please contact the SRI Coordinator, Brittney Robinson at brobins7@umd.edu