

## Frequently Asked Questions

### **HOUSING**

#### **What and where are the accommodations?**

NEH Summer Scholars will stay at the Honors College dormitory at Virginia Commonwealth University, which includes housing and meeting space for both Summer Scholars and program faculty. The NEH Summer Scholars will be provided with individual rooms with their own personal bathrooms for \$50.00 a night. Pictures of the rooms and facilities are located on the program website. Check-in will take place on Sunday and checkout on Friday.

All Summer Scholars will have rooms on the same floor of the Honors College dormitory to allow for more interaction, group work, networking, and group travel. On the Summer Scholars' floor, community space including study tables, chairs for reading, whiteboards, and technological support including free Wi-Fi will be available. In addition, each floor will have 1-2 refrigerators and microwaves available for your use.

#### **How do I make housing arrangements?**

We have secured 36 rooms on the third floor of the Honors College dormitory at VCU. Please complete the enclosed agreement form to stay at the dormitory and we will deduct the sum of \$260 (\$50x5 for rooms + \$10 entrance card) from your stipend.

By May 31, we will also share with you a website that you can use to order additional VCU services/options if you would like. For example, Summer Scholars will be able to order linens for their rooms (2 sheets, a light blanket, washcloth, a pillow case and 2 towels) for \$15 per week; and/or a pillow for an additional \$5.50 per week. None of these linens will be provided free of charge. Access to VCU gymnasiums (including two indoor pools) is \$20 for the week. University parking in a covered garage located near the Honors College is also available for \$10 per day.

### **MEALS**

#### **What about meals?**

A total of \$100 (\$20 per day for breakfast and lunch x 5) will be pre-deducted from your \$1,200 stipend with your permission, but dinners from Sunday to Thursday are on your own. Richmond is home to a diverse culinary environment and Summer Scholars will be pleased to find restaurants and cafes catering to all types of tastes, dietary needs, and price ranges within walking distance of the Honors College dormitory. A list of restaurants will be also shared when you check in.

## **STIPEND**

### **How much is the stipend and what does it cover?**

You will receive a check on the last day of the workshop. The amount will be \$830, which is 1,200 minus the costs of pre-paid meals, the cost of your housing, and the required conference card. This means that you will have to pre-pay only for your travel to the workshop and optional items (e.g., linens, pillow/pillow case, and gym card, etc.) that you will request through the VCU housing registration website. In addition, please note: if you miss any portion of the required workshop presentations or activities for any reason – including health, family issues, or delayed flights – there will be a pro-rated deduction from your stipend.

## **TRAVEL TO THE WORKSHOP**

### **How do I travel to the workshop?**

By Air

The Richmond International Airport currently serves the Greater Richmond area. American Airlines, Delta, JetBlue, Southwest, United, and US Airways all travel to and from the Richmond International Airport. Once you have landed, you will be a short cab ride away from Virginia Commonwealth University (approximately 11 miles). Summer Scholars may also ride the Greater Richmond Transit Company bus line to and from VCU. Bus fares and route schedules are available at <http://www.ridegrtc.com/>. For more information about flights to and from RIA, please visit their website at <http://www.flyrichmond.com/>.

By Car

Richmond is located in the heart of Virginia along the I-95 corridor. If driving, Richmond is approximately 5 hours from New York City, 2 hours from Washington, DC, 8 hours from Atlanta, and 9 hours from Nashville. We suggest that you use online mapping services such as Google Maps to map your travel route and to help you figure out where tolls, construction, and/or traffic may occur along your drive. If you use GPS, use the following address of the Honors College dormitory at VCU as your destination:

701 West Grace Street  
Richmond, VA 23284-3010

University parking in a covered garage is available for \$10 per day, and participants will be able to reserve a parking pass using the VCU housing registration website.

### By Bus/Train

Train: Richmond is part of the Northeast Regional service provided by Amtrak. Summer Scholars from northern states can board trains in Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Connecticut, New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Delaware, Maryland, and/or Washington, DC to travel to Richmond. Summer Scholars traveling from the Tidewater area of Virginia (Norfolk, Newport News, and/or Virginia Beach) can also reach Richmond by this train line. Please review the Amtrak website for additional information about prices and travel times.

<http://www.amtrak.com/northeast-regional-train>

Bus: Amtrak and Greyhound both provide bus service to and from Richmond for out of town Summer Scholars. The Richmond Amtrak Station (East Main location) is approximately 1.6 miles from the Honors College and the Greyhound station is approximately 2.7 miles away. Please review their websites for departing locations, prices, and travel information.

<https://www.greyhound.com/> <http://www.amtrak.com/home>

### Cab Services in Richmond

If you decide to travel to Richmond by plane, bus, and/or train, you will need to contact a local cab service to transport you and your belongings to the Honors College at VCU. According to Taxi Fare Finder, a cab ride from Richmond International Airport to the Honors College will cost in between \$26.50-\$36.00 depending on traffic for a single rider. A cab ride from the Greyhound Station will cost in between \$13.00-\$19.00 and a cab ride from the E. Main Street Amtrak station will cost in between \$3.50-\$6.00 for a single rider. Listed below are local Richmond Taxi companies and their contact information:

Airport Taxi: 804-233-4444

Galaxy Cab Company: 804-560-4408

Richmond Flyer Taxi: 804-914-5544

Henrico Taxi: 804-517-4000

Taxi Richmond: 804-898-6166

Richmond Fare Finder Website:

<http://www.taxifarefinder.com/main.php?city=Richmond-VA>

### **Can locals commute to the workshop?**

Since Long Road from *Brown* is a “residential” educational experience in which participants benefit from being part of a learning community, we require that all participants stay at the VCU dormitory. This will allow Summer Scholars to build a better sense of community, allow for ease of travel, and promote effective group

work. In addition, it is required that all participants travel with the group to our site visits and related activities. We will be using a professional bus service for travel.

### **CEUs**

#### **May I get CEUs or other credit?**

Yes. NEH Summer Scholars are awarded certificates of completion that list the number of contact hours. Continuing Education Units (CEU's) are available by Old Dominion University for a small fee (\$25). 1 CEU is awarded for 10 contact hours. Thus, for those who successfully complete 5-day workshop, 4 CEU's are awarded. If you are interested in earning CEU's through the workshop and have questions, please indicate your interest in the enclosed authorization and information sheet.

### **A FEW MORE THINGS...**

#### **What should I bring with me?**

**Money:** We recommend at least \$30 per day for your personal needs as well as for eating out, teaching materials, or souvenirs you may wish to purchase from sites.

**Clothing:** Richmond and the other Virginia locations we will visit will be hot and humid during the month of July. It is not unusual for temperatures to reach 90+ degrees. We recommend bringing water bottles, hats, sunscreen, sunglasses, an umbrella, and a hat/visor for all our excursions as well as a light sweater/jacket (for air conditioned buildings). Also please be aware that we will be walking and touring various buildings and sites, so comfortable shoes should be worn.

**Personal needs:** If you have medicinal or very special dietary needs, you will need to bring your own supplies. Seating at some historic sites is on wooden benches. Please bring a small pillow or stadium seat if hard seating is of concern for you.

**Photography and laptop computers:** Still photography is allowed for classroom and personal use. Video taping lectures is not allowed. The dormitory has Wireless Internet access throughout the facility. It is recommended that you bring a laptop or other personal computer device (such a Tablet device), to allow easy access to the Long Road from *Brown* website materials. But it is not obligatory. Participants will have access to VCU computer labs, and there will be a few extra computers available.

#### **What about readings for the workshop? What advance reading do you want me to do in order to be prepared for the workshop?**

We are including a packet of required reading assignments in this mailing. These readings include one textbook (*With All Deliberate Speed: Implementing Brown v. Board of Education*) and 13 chapter-length reading assignments. Each reading

assignment is required. These assignments provide background information and context for guest presentations, site visits, and discussions. The schedule of readings is also included in this packet--the file is called our tentative day-by-day schedule. By May 31, we will also email each of you a link to a website with all of the required readings posted as PDF files, which you can view, print, or download.

**Will there be time for independent sightseeing/shopping?**

No. If you are interested in touring, please come a few days earlier or stay a few days after.

**May I bring family members or pets with me to the workshop?**

We discourage participants from bringing family members. This is an intensive residential professional development experience for K-12 educators. We are on the go from early in the morning and sometimes go until late in the evenings. Only participants are authorized to attend activities. There is little time to spend with those who are not part of the workshop. We know that pets are “family” to many. However, the workshop hotel does not accommodate any pets.