

Guidelines for applicants for a Curran Fellowship

1. Please make sure that the filename of every file you send to the committee at curranfellowship@rs4vp.org begins with your LAST NAME. Please also include the year. E.g., "JONES proposal curran 2014.docx" or "JONES cv curran 2014.pdf"
2. At the top of the application, provide your name, contact information, the title of your project, and a one- or two-sentence abstract. The entire proposal need be no longer than a few single-spaced (or five or six double-spaced) pages, if that long.
3. Next, explain the nature and background of your project, the specific research you intend to do with the support of the Curran funds, the time frame for conducting that research, and how the Curran-enabled research contributes to the goals of the larger project. Be sure to explain how your research will help to advance scholarly understanding of the 19th-century British press more generally. This last is very important. The Curran Fellowships are not intended to support historical or literary research that merely makes some use of Victorian newspapers and magazines as sources, but, rather, to support research that tells us something new about the nature of those publications, their role in the 19th-century literary marketplace, and the people who wrote, illustrated, edited, published, sold, bought, and read them.
4. Indicate what printed and manuscript materials you want to explore, and why. Be as specific as you can. For example, if you propose looking at runs of certain periodicals, give specific titles and date-spans for them; likewise, if you want to work in a publisher's or author's archive, indicate what kinds of documents there you intend to inspect. Make sure that all the materials you mention will in fact be available to you at the time of your proposed visit
5. Make sure that the materials you are proposing to travel to see are not already available to you in microfilm or digital form, or in a repository closer to home. Note, too, that the archives you plan to visit with Curran Fellowship assistance need not necessarily be in the UK, as many libraries in other parts of the world have important collections that are of interest to students of Victorian periodicals. If you need to travel to another institution to use an electronic database not available to you locally, or to subscribe to such a resource, please mention that, as well.
6. Manuscript sources—letters, diaries, ledgers, drawings, etc.—are often overlooked by researchers today. Because the purpose of the Curran Fellowships are to encourage and support primary-source research in all its varieties, be sure to include manuscript materials in the proposal if they are available and appropriate for your project.
7. Identify how the results of your research will be made available to other scholars—as an article, chapter, or book, for instance, in print or online or both
8. Supply at least a roughly estimated budget, including projected costs of travel, food, lodging, and any other anticipated expenses (e.g., scanning or photocopying). Note that airfare and housing costs will vary depending on the time of year in which you conduct your research.
9. Send your referees the materials you submit for the fellowship and tell them that they may be contacted late in the judging process.
10. Be sure to provide a current c.v.