



Laney AERO Fellowship and Ambassadorship

For the 2026-2027 Academic Year

Fellowship Description: Belonging, Inclusion, and Recruitment

**** Apply by Monday, August 31, 2026 ****

The James T. Laney School of Graduate Studies (LGS) at Emory University seeks applications for the Laney - AERO (Advancing Excellence through Recruitment & Opportunity) Fellowship and Ambassadorship Program for the 2026-2027 academic year. This program is open to all students (master's and doctoral) currently enrolled in Laney Graduate School during the period from September 1, 2026, through August 31, 2027.

The Laney AERO Fellows, Junior Fellows, and Ambassadors will collaborate with the Associate Dean the Assistant Directors, and other AERO team members in the execution of the duties outlined below. This will be a highly cooperative position, and the fellows, junior fellows, and ambassadors will work in a team environment with other LGS staff and campus partners.

An ideal applicant demonstrates a strong passion for establishing, maintaining, and enhancing a graduate community at Emory that reflects inclusive excellence and is committed to upholding the core values of Laney-AERO: access, belonging, community, and advancement, while also supporting REACH (Recruitment, Empowerment, Attainment of Success, Collaboration and Holistic Support)

Programming & Community Engagement

- Attendance and active engagement in AERO programming and community events are essential for connecting our efforts to the broader graduate student community. Signature initiatives—such as Learning About Laney (October 4-6) and the Summer Opportunity for Academic Research (SOAR) program (June-August 2027)—offer key opportunities for Fellows, Junior Fellows, and Ambassadors to contribute meaningfully to planning and execution.
- In addition to these flagship programs, involvement in AERO mixers, luncheons, and receptions throughout the academic year helps foster a vibrant, inclusive, and supportive graduate community.

Recruitment Events

- Supporting on-campus, local, and national recruitment efforts is a key responsibility of AERO Fellows, Junior Fellows, and Ambassadors. Participation helps strengthen connections with current and prospective students and showcases the vibrant community at Laney Graduate School.
 - Local Events are typically day-long recruitment activities held in the greater Atlanta area and offer a fantastic opportunity to engage with future scholars in a familiar setting.
- All relevant expenses related to recruitment events and travel will be covered or reimbursed by the Laney Graduate School. Rideshare and transportation costs will be paid directly as often as possible. Meals, local travel, parking, and other related expenses will be reimbursed. All charges will be subject to review.

FELLOW DUTIES

Responsibilities may include, but are not limited to:

- Be present at **ALL** AERO on-campus events.
- Contribute to the development, strategic planning, and facilitation of:
 - Learning about Laney: A Preview Visitation of Emory University, Laney Graduate School from 10/4 - 10/6.
 - 2027 LGS-SOAR Program for prospective LGS students.
 - Laney Graduate School Visits for prospective students and student organizations (e.g., Mellon Undergraduate Fellows and McNair Scholars).
- Be a thought partner to ensure alignment of AERO initiatives to community needs.
- Be a point of contact for AERO Junior Fellows & Ambassadors.

Financial compensation for the work rendered will be a top-off award of **\$6,000** to be distributed over the 12-month (9/1/2026 - 8/31/2027) appointment.

- All applicants not chosen for the fellowship will be considered for the junior fellowship and ambassadorship.

Fellow Events & Responsibilities (Snapshot)

Please note: This is a partial overview intended to provide insight into the role. A more comprehensive list will be shared before acceptance of the role.

Date	Event	Responsibility/Involvement
Sept. 14	Fellow & Ambassador Orientation	• Attend; engage
Oct. 4 - 6	Learning About Laney	• Oct. 4 (evening): Connect w/students at social event • Oct. 5 (full day): Transportation needs, campus tours, welcome session, mingling at (breakfast, lunch, dinner), Q&A, etc.
Fall/Spring	AERO Mixers & Coffee Hours	• Attend all events; welcome & facilitate conversations with students; share AERO resources.
Nov. 10	Annual AERO Reception	• Welcome guests • Introduce guest speakers and/or LGS Dean • <i>All Fellows, Jr. Fellows, & Ambassadors will be recognized at reception.</i>
Summer 2027 (Late May - August)	LGS SOAR (Summer Opportunity for Academic Research)	<i>Professional Development/Special Topics/Academic Core Instructors</i> • Update PD curriculum and content for in-person SOAR ◦ Lead one weekly in-person professional development session for on-campus summer research students (~2hrs/wk.) • Serve as a resource for on-campus students. • Attend SOAR Orientation, Community Building Events, Research Symposium, and End of Summer Celebration
Throughout the Academic Year	AERO & REACH Support	• Consult with AERO staff on student needs, experiences, and concerns. • Represent LGS-AERO at local and on-campus events. • Maintain open feedback with AERO staff
Varies	Other events	• Support as needed, where available

JUNIOR FELLOW DUTIES

Responsibilities may include, but are not limited to:

- Be present at monthly AERO on-campus events.
- Contribute to the marketing and communications of AERO events.
- Contribute to the planning and facilitation of:
 - Learning about Laney: A Preview Visitation of Emory University, Laney Graduate School from 10/4 - 10/6.
 - 2027 LGS-SOAR Program for prospective LGS students.
 - Laney Graduate School Visits for prospective students and student organizations (e.g., Mellon Undergraduate Fellows and McNair Scholars).
- Provide additional support to AERO ambassadors as needed.

Financial compensation for work rendered will be a top-off award of **\$4,500** to be distributed over the 12-month (9/1/2026 - 8/31/2027) appointment.

- All applicants not chosen for the fellowship will be considered for the ambassadorship.

Junior Fellow Events & Responsibilities (Snapshot)

Please note: This is a partial overview intended to provide insight into the role. A more comprehensive list will be shared before acceptance of the role.

<u>Date</u>	<u>Event</u>	<u>Responsibility/Involvement</u>
Sept. 14	Fellow & Ambassador Orientation	• Attend; engage
Oct. 4 - 6	Learning About Laney	• Oct. 4 (evening): Connect w/students at social event • Oct. 5 (full day): Transportation needs, campus tours, mingling at (breakfast, lunch, dinner), Q&A, etc.
Fall/Spring	AERO Mixers & Coffee Hours	• Attend all events; welcome & facilitate conversations with students; share AERO resources.
Nov. 10	Annual AERO Reception	• Welcome guests • <i>All Fellows, Jr. Fellows, & Ambassadors will be recognized at reception.</i>
Summer 2027 (Late May - August)	LGS SOAR (Summer Opportunity for Academic Research)	<i>Virtual SOAR Academic Discipline Lead or PD Instructor</i> • Develop/update content for Core Sessions - Academic Ethics, Literature Review, Methodological Approaches, Preparing for Graduate School • Lead weekly/bi-weekly virtual core session for on-campus summer research students (~2hrs/wk.); One per week OR one every 2 weeks • Develop pre-work activities to engage students in • Serve as a resource on graduate school experiences • Attend Virtual SOAR Boot Camp Orientation
Varies	Other Events	Support as needed, where available

AMBASSADOR DUTIES

Responsibilities may include, but are not limited to:

- Participate in AERO monthly on-campus events.
- Assist with the facilitation of 2 AERO Mixers/Coffee Hours per semester
- Contribute to the facilitation of:
 - Learning about Laney: A Preview Visitation of Emory University, Laney Graduate School from 10/4 - 10/6.
 - 2027 LGS-SOAR Program for prospective LGS students.
 - Laney Graduate School Visits for prospective students and student organizations (e.g., Mellon Undergraduate Fellows and McNair Scholars).
- Assist with other related projects, as needed and as time permits.

Financial compensation for the work rendered will be determined by event type and location.

- Events off campus but in the greater Atlanta area will be compensated at **\$50 per event**.
- Events off campus but not in the greater Atlanta area will be compensated at **\$100 per day**. Expenses for travel will be covered, and payment is for non-travel days only.

Ambassador Events & Responsibilities (Snapshot)

Please note: This is a partial overview intended to provide insight into the role. A more comprehensive list will be shared before acceptance of the role.

Date	Event	Responsibility/Involvement
Sept. 14	Fellow & Ambassador Orientation	Attend; engage
Oct. 4 - 6	Learning About Laney	- Oct. 4 (evening): Connect w/students at social event - Oct. 5 (full day): Transportation needs, campus tours, mingling at (breakfast, lunch, dinner), Q&A, etc.
Fall/Spring	AERO Mixers & Coffee Hours	Attend and mingle with students
Nov. 10	Annual AERO Reception	- Welcome guests <i>All Fellows, Jr. Fellows, & Ambassadors will be recognized at the reception.</i>
Summer 2027 (Late May - August)	LGS SOAR (Summer Opportunity for Academic Research)	<i>Virtual Special Topics Session Instructors</i> - Develop/update content for 2hr session on specific content area - Lead one special topics session for on-campus summer research students (~2hrs/wk.) - Develop pre-work activities to engage students in - Serve as a resource on graduate school experiences - Attend Virtual SOAR Boot Camp Orientation
Varies	Other Events	Support as needed, where available

Eligibility

To be considered for either the fellowship, junior fellowship, or ambassadorship, applicants must:

- Be a full-time student in any LGS master's or doctoral program, in good standing;
 - Applicants for the fellowship must be in a doctoral program;
 - Applicants for the junior fellowship & ambassadorship may be in a master's or doctoral program;
- Be in residency in Atlanta full-time for the entire year of appointment.

Application Guidelines

Information about the Laney Graduate School's Advanced Student Fellowships may be found here: <http://www.gs.emory.edu/professional-development/fellowships/advanced.html>).

A complete Laney AERO Fellowship, Junior Fellowship, and Ambassadorship application will include:

1. Statement of Purpose (500 words maximum)

- a. Please indicate if you would like to be considered for the role of a) **Ambassador**, b) **Junior Fellow**, c) **Fellow**, or d) **all** at the beginning of your statement of purpose. To be considered for the Fellow roles, you must have been an Ambassador in previous years **OR** must have been actively engaged in AERO initiatives (such as SOAR instructor, Bouchet inductee, etc.).
 1. The statement of purpose should also address the following topics:
 - Your long-term professional goals
 - Skills/experiences relevant to this position, such as coursework, research methods, etc.
 - Why would you like the fellow, junior fellow, or ambassador position
 - Availability to engage with the AERO program and other time commitments related to Emory and Laney Graduate School.
 - **(Fellow & Junior Fellow Applicant only)** Estimated amount of time per week you could dedicate to AERO.
 - **(Fellow Applicants only)** What AERO initiative would you like to contribute to, and how? What AERO programming is currently missing? How can you help us address that gap?
 - **(Junior Fellow Applicants only)** What ideas do you have to enhance the AERO program's reach on campus, including social media campaigns? How would you enhance the current AERO program offerings?

2. CV/Resume

- a. A current curriculum vitae (CV) or resume of relevant experiences. Be sure to highlight your contribution to initiatives or activities related to access, recruitment, belonging, community, equity, and inclusion.

3. Transcript

- a. A copy of your Emory transcript (a copy of an unofficial transcript issued to you is acceptable).

4. Letter of Support (Fellows & Junior Fellows ONLY)

- a. A brief letter of recommendation from your advisor with support from your Program Director/Director of Graduate Studies assessing:
 1. Your skills and ability to work within the Laney Graduate School on matters related to inclusion, recruitment, & community building.
 2. Your availability to be a dedicated member of the AERO team,
 3. Dedication to community, equity, access, and belonging for all LGS students.

If selected, all Fellows, Junior Fellows, and Ambassadors will be publicly announced, and their selection will be shared with their academic program leadership and direct advisor. Therefore, please discuss your application with them before applying.

*****All applicants for both the fellowships and the ambassadorship must apply through the portal under the fellowship name "AERO Fellowships and Ambassadorship". *****

Application Submission Instructions

All nominations and applications, including supporting materials, will be uploaded using the Laney Connect Hub platform.

1. Go to your [Laney Connect Hub](#)
 - Log in with your Emory credentials
2. Select the Advanced Fellowship tab (on the right side)
 - On that tab, click on the Advanced Fellowship Application
3. Select the application for the "AERO Fellowship and Ambassadorship"
 - The form will ask you to upload the required items (via a PDF file) and to designate a recommender to submit a letter of support on your behalf. That person will receive an email requesting a letter.

Note: The recommender will receive an email requesting a letter if applicable.

Application Deadline

Monday, August 31, 2026, at 11:59 PM ET

Selection

The selection committee, led by the Associate Dean of Advancing Excellence through Recruitment & Opportunity, will evaluate the alignment of the applicant's qualifications, interests, and experiences with the scope and duties of the fellowship and ambassadorship.

Award Notifications

Notice of the selected fellows and ambassadors will be sent by September 4, 2026, with orientation on **September 14, 2026.**

Questions

For questions, contact laney.aero@emory.edu.