

# SURAJ ISRANI CENTER FOR CINEMATIC ARTS FALL 2025 - FELLOWSHIP APPLICATION CALL

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**Call date:** Tuesday, Nov 4, 2025 / **Application deadline:** Sunday, Nov 30, 2025

**Overview:** UC San Diego students, faculty, and staff are invited to apply for a Suraj Israni Center for Cinematic Arts Fellowship, which offers funding (\$500–\$2,500) and/or access to film production equipment in support of cinematic projects reflective of the Center’s mission.

**Purpose:** Fellowships provide access and opportunity to the UC San Diego academic community to further engagement, exploration and innovation in the many forms of cinematic arts.

**Sponsor:** The Suraj Israni Center for Cinematic Arts promotes research, scholarship, teaching, production, and exhibition of film and moving-image arts. Founded in 2022 and anchored within the School of Arts and Humanities at UC San Diego, the Center’s resources and opportunities support and supplement the academic film, media and cinematic programs on campus. (Read the Center’s Mission on the website at [sicca.ucsd.edu](https://sicca.ucsd.edu).)

**Questions:** Please read through the entire call, then email any questions you may have to [SurajIsraniCenter@ucsd.edu](mailto:SurajIsraniCenter@ucsd.edu) with “Fellowship Question” as the subject.

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## Fellowship Details

### Project Scope:

The fellowship supports cinematic projects in alignment with the Center’s mission and values.

- Mission: Promoting research, scholarship, teaching, production, and exhibition of film and moving-image arts.
- Values and Guiding Principles:
  - Innovation and experimentation in production and scholarship
  - Diversity, highlighting underrepresented practitioners and scholars
  - Regional and transnational topics, from San Diego to Mexico and the Pacific Rim
  - Interdisciplinary approaches that enhance collaborative research and practice

### Project Examples:

- Production of a narrative, documentary or experimental film or video piece
- Research for a book or paper, where support includes travel to a film festival or archive

### Award:

- Fellows selected will receive either funding, access to professional film production equipment, or both. Funding provided may vary by recipient, depending on needs outlined in the proposal budget

and available funds. Potential film production equipment and usage terms can be previewed [online](https://surajisranicenter.ucsd.edu) at [surajisranicenter.ucsd.edu](https://surajisranicenter.ucsd.edu).

- Fellows will have the opportunity to attend and participate in events, including casual mixers with other fellow recipients, and the annual fall Fellowship Forum showcasing and celebrating fellow work.

### Eligibility:

Current UC San Diego students, faculty and staff, regardless of department or area, are eligible for the fellowship if they meet the terms outlined in the chart below.

Constituents	Eligibility Terms	Award	Award Processing
<b>Student (Undergraduate or Graduate)</b>	Must be registered at UC San Diego and in good academic standing.	Funds and/or Equipment Use	Undergraduate students receive stipends via the financial aid office. Graduate students receive stipends via their home department. Fund disbursement timing varies by the party issuing. Equipment access is coordinated with SICCA and the team at the Media Teaching Lab.
<b>Faculty</b>	Senate Faculty and Unit 18 Lecturers must be in residence and not on an approved leave, sabbatical or work relocation. Unit 18 Lecturers must also have an academic appointment at UC San Diego for the duration of the fellowship.	Funds and/or Equipment Use	Faculty are provided chartstring to charge expenses. The home department is responsible for processing/reconciling in Concur. Equipment access is coordinated with SICCA and the team at the Media Teaching Lab.
<b>Staff</b>	Must be currently employed by the university.	Equipment Use Only	Staff are currently ineligible to receive funding due to university policies and limitations. Equipment access is coordinated with the team at the Media Teaching Lab.
Former Fellows	If awarded in the past, must wait two academic years before reapplying.	Funds and/or Equipment Use	<i>View specific constituency for details.</i>

### Selection Process:

- Applicants are reviewed by an ad-hoc faculty committee assembled by the Center director.
- Selected applicants are notified via email in January 2026.
- Selected projects typically have thought-provoking concepts in close alignment with the Center's mission and values, along with well-organized implementation plans and detailed budgets.

### Award Distribution and Terms:

- Funds will be disbursed by the issuing party (as noted in the eligibility chart above) beginning in late January 2026, with specific timing determined by the responsible party.
- All expenses must be incurred by **June 30, 2026** and follow UC San Diego's policies and procedures for [Travel Expenses](#) and Reimbursements and for [Contracting Services](#).

### Fellow Expectations:

- Attend a minimum of three Center-sponsored events during Academic Year 2025-26.

- Complete a project status form three months from fund/equipment disbursement (to be provided).
- Submit a written reflection on the project and fellowship by **July 31, 2026** detailing:
  - the role and impact the fellowship provided to the awarded project,
  - how specifically the fellowship funds and/or equipment were utilized,
  - the overall experience with the project, including lessons learned and feedback,
  - future plans with the fellowship project or related/inspired work.

Fellows are active participants, valued members, and representative ambassadors of the Suraj Israni Center for Cinematic Arts, embodying its mission and values. The Center supports and celebrates this vibrant community of creatives throughout the completion of their projects and seeks to foster lasting connections as their work and scholarship continue to evolve.

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## Application

1. **Complete an online application:**
  - a. <https://forms.gle/wwcLbNGNcHSLcK1P8>
2. **Request Faculty Reference Letter** (undergraduate/graduate students only)
  - a. Have faculty submit reference letter: <https://forms.gle/quKxnbu8fUFxjBo27>

### Application Fields:

- Email, First Name, Last Name, Major/Department, Affiliation
- Short biography, short project description and how the fellowship will be utilized
- Project Description:
  - Theoretical Framework: Describe the theoretical framework of the project, including your perspective/lens, core themes, the context of this project, what you intend to learn or achieve and why it is interesting.
  - Alignment: Please describe how this project aligns with the Center's mission and values.
  - Planning/Timeline: Please describe your plan for completing this project, including your anticipated start and completion dates.
- CV/Resume upload, with list of cinematic projects and roles within each
- Budget (section not applicable to staff applicants)
  - Amount of funding requested
  - Details of how funding will be used
  - List of any equipment to be purchased with funding
- Reference Letter (Only applicable to undergraduate and graduate students)
  - Contact information for the UC San Diego faculty to be submitting reference letter
- **Incomplete applications will not be considered.**
- Please name all files with your last name (dash) file type (E.g., Jones - CV)
- **Questions:** email [SurajIsraniCenter@ucsd.edu](mailto:SurajIsraniCenter@ucsd.edu) with "Fellowship Question" as the subject