

**FYRA Descriptions 2024-2025**

**First Year Research Award**                      **Religion**

**Faculty Supervisor:**                              **Dr. Kati Fitzgerald**

**Position Title:** First Year Research Scholar in Buddhism in American Prisons

**Criteria:** The Wittenberg University Department of Religion will offer a First Year Research Award for the academic year 2024-2025 to an incoming student to work with Dr. Kati Fitzgerald. This student will have a demonstrated academic ability and/or research interest in Buddhist Studies, mass incarceration, police brutality and prison chaplaincy.

**Expectations:** FYRA Scholarship recipients will devote between 6 and 8 hours per week across their first year to FYRA program and their research related project, according to the FYRA Learning Contract agreed upon by the sponsoring professor and the scholarship recipient. Recipients will also be expected to participate in a regular meeting of FYRA recipients, present their results in an appropriate forum and submit a copy of their presentation to the appropriate university office. FYRA Scholarship recipients will also participate in an assessment of the FYRA program. (The FYRA Scholarship is not part of a student's work study award.)

**Research Activity:** The First Year Research Award recipient will assist Dr. Kati Fitzgerald, Assistant Professor of Religion, in her ongoing research on Buddhism in American prisons as agreed upon in the FYRA mission statement in iFY.