

Frequently Asked Questions – Ford Foundation Postdoctoral Fellowships

For New Awardees

I have been awarded another fellowship. Can I use both concurrently?

You cannot hold another major internal or external award concurrently with the Ford fellowship; however, supplementary funding is permissible to bring your support in line with your current salary or other university fellowship stipends. For questions regarding supplementary funding, contact FordAwards@nas.edu.

I plan to accept another fellowship award that provides stipend support. May I accept the Ford Foundation Fellowship in title only?

No, the Ford Foundation Fellowship award cannot be accepted in title only; the award funding must be accepted along with the other benefits of the Fellowship.

What if I decide to affiliate with a different university from the one I indicated in my application?

If your institution has changed since the time of the application, you must request approval from the Fellowships Office in writing to affiliate with the new institution. Contact the Fellowships Office at FordAwards@nas.edu. Your revised institution must meet program requirements.

What is required to initiate my award?

In the Ford Fellows web module:

- Complete award **acceptance**
- Complete steps for **stipend** information including choice of payment method and disbursement period
- Complete steps for confirming **immigration status**: U.S. citizenship/permanent residency/DACA status¹/asylee or refugee status/Indigenous individuals exercising rights associated with the Jay Treaty of 1794/Temporary Protected Status
- Upload **official transcript** from Ph.D./Sc.D. institution indicating date and type of doctoral degree awarded
- Upload **Confirmation from Host Mentor**: Host Mentor's letter affirming that the Ford Fellow will be working with the host on the Proposed Plan of Study or Research as described in the application. The letter must contain the host mentor's contact information.

When will my fellowship tenure begin and when will it end?

Postdoctoral Fellows have three options for their tenure period and stipend disbursement:

1. June 1 to May 31 (12 months)
2. September 1 to August 31 (12 months)
3. September 1 to May 31 (9 months)

You will receive the same total yearly stipend in all cases.

How and when will I receive my stipend payments?

The Fellowships Office manages stipend payments for Ford Fellows who select the Electronic Funds Transfer (EFT) payment method option. Once your EFT set-up is complete, your account will be credited by direct deposit on approximately the first business day of the month beginning the month of your selected start date.

Alternatively, you may elect to have your stipend disbursed by an institution. If institutional disbursement is favorable, you must select the **Institution** payment method option and designate a university official who will oversee the administration of your funding. Provide the name and contact information of this official in the Ford Fellows web module so that the Fellowships Office can obtain the necessary paperwork for transferring your

¹ Eligibility includes individuals with current status under the DACA Program, as well as individuals whose status may have lapsed but who continue to meet all the USCIS guidelines for DACA available [here](#).

award funds to the institution. We recommend that you contact your university official to confirm details about receiving your stipend payments.

How do I change my stipend disbursement period after I have already selected 9 months or 12 months?

Fellows who selected the **EFT** payment method and wish to change their stipend disbursement period should contact FordAwards@nas.edu to determine if and when changes to the payment schedule can be made.

Fellows who selected the **Institution** payment method should contact their institution official to determine if and when changes to the payment schedule can be made.

Does the fellowship cover health insurance, other fringe benefits, or provide a travel allowance?

No. Some academic institutions will provide health insurance to Ford Fellows. We suggest that you contact your host mentor or other university official to negotiate these matters. The Fellowships Office encourages institutions to provide fringe benefits without charge.

Does the fellowship cover indirect costs at my institution?

No. All payments administered by the Ford Foundation Fellowship program are for the benefit of the Fellows.

How do I obtain an award letter needed by my department to set up my fellowship at my institution?

Contact the Fellowships Office at FordAwards@nas.edu to request an award letter. These letters are made available to new Fellows upon request. In addition, if you require fellowship verification at any time while you are on Ford tenure, please do not hesitate to send a request to the Fellowships Office.

Other than the initiation of my award, what else can I expect as a newly awarded Ford Fellow?

1. **Ford Fellowship Awardee Announcement:** we expect to finalize all awards by early June, when we will post an online announcement of the newly awarded Ford Fellows.
2. **Directory of Ford Fellows:** Newly awarded Fellows are included in the online [Directory of Ford Fellows](#) during the summer of their award year.
3. **Fellowship Related Activities:** Over the summer, the Fellowships Office will send out information about fellowship related activities

What information can I provide my institution to inform officials about the Ford Foundation Fellowship Programs?

The Fellowship Office's web site features [an information page for Educational Institutions](#). You may provide this link to officials at your institution, and they may also contact the Fellowships Office directly at FordAwards@nas.edu.

For On-Tenure Fellows

My payment method is EFT and my bank account is different from the one I entered when I accepted my award. How can I update my account numbers?

Please send an email to FordAwards@nas.edu indicating you need to update your bank account information. Fellowships Office staff need to initiate a system change and will then send you an email notification when the system is ready for you to enter the updated EFT account information.

Once notified, Fellows must submit revised EFT account information in the Ford Fellows web module under the Tenure Support and Stipend section.

To ensure that your EFT account update is completed in a timely manner, you must submit your updated EFT information in the Ford Fellows web module by the 15th of the month prior to your next stipend payment (e.g., by October 15 for a November 1 payment).

May I ask for emergency funds if I need additional funding?

Additional or emergency funding is not available.

What about taxation?

For any questions about taxation, Fellows should consult a tax professional or the Internal Revenue Service to determine their individual tax liability.

When must I submit my mid-year/final reports?

Email notifications will be sent to Fellows for each required report. Specific due dates will be listed in the Ford Fellows web module. If you do not receive a notification email, please contact FordAwards@nas.edu.

Type of Report	Notification Email Sent
Mid-Year	January
Final	July

Contact

When should I contact the Fellowships Office?

The Fellowships Office has a vested interest in your success in academia and would like to serve as your advocate. If you have questions about the administration of the fellowship or wish to discuss issues that arise that impact your academic progress in graduate school, please contact us.

How can I contact the Fellowships Office?

Address all correspondence to:

Fellowships Office
The National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine
500 Fifth Street, N.W., Keck 576
Washington, DC 20001
Email: FordAwards@nas.edu
Phone: 202-334-2860

Are the Ford Foundation Fellowship Programs on social media?

The Ford Foundation Fellowship Programs are on Facebook, X (Twitter), and LinkedIn. You may follow us by clicking on the links below.



How can I submit information for posting on the social media accounts for the Ford Foundation Fellowship Programs?

Content may be [submitted](#) only by current or past Ford Fellows and will be reviewed by the Fellowships Office prior to posting. The content might include a new book or research article, awards, promotions, or new positions. Content text should be less than 280 characters, preferably with a related photo and link to an external resource where the Fellowships Office can obtain additional information.

More information is provided on the Fellowships Office Web Page at: <http://www.nas.edu/Ford>

[List of Regional Liaisons](#) — Senior mentors who are Fellowship alumni and willing to provide guidance
[Ford Fellows Directory](#) — Database of current Fellows and alumni