

Ford Foundation Fellowship Program

For Achieving Excellence in
College and University Teaching

2015 PROGRAM ANNOUNCEMENT

Administered by the National Academies

PREDOCTORAL FELLOWSHIPS

**On-line Application Deadline:
NOVEMBER 19, 2014**

**Announcement of Awards:
MARCH 2015**

THE NATIONAL ACADEMIES
Advisers to the Nation on Science, Engineering, and Medicine

STATEMENT OF PROGRAM GOALS

Through its program of Fellowships, the Ford Foundation seeks to increase the diversity of the nation's college and university faculties by increasing their ethnic and racial diversity, to maximize the educational benefits of diversity, and to increase the number of professors who can and will use diversity as a resource for enriching the education of all students.

PREDOCTORAL AWARDS

This year the program will award approximately 60 predoctoral fellowships. These fellowships provide three years of support for individuals engaged in graduate study leading to a Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) or Doctor of Science (Sc.D.) degree.

Predocutorial fellowships will be awarded in a national competition administered by the National Research Council (NRC) of the National Academies on behalf of the Ford Foundation. The awards will be made to individuals who, in the judgment of the review panels, have demonstrated superior academic achievement, are committed to a career in teaching and research at the college or university level, show promise of future achievement as scholars and teachers, and are well prepared to use diversity as a resource for enriching the education of all students.

ELIGIBILITY

Eligibility to apply for a predoctoral fellowship is limited to:

- All citizens, nationals, and permanent residents (holders of a Permanent Resident Card) of the United States, and individuals granted deferred action status under the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals Program, regardless of race, national origin, religion, gender, age, disability, or sexual orientation,
- Individuals with evidence of superior academic achievement (such as grade point average, class rank, honors or other designations),
- Individuals committed to a career in teaching and research at the college or university level,
- Individuals enrolled in or planning to enroll in an eligible **research-based (dissertation-required)**, program leading to a Ph.D. or Sc.D. degree at a non-proprietary U.S. educational institution,
- Individuals who require a minimum of three years study to complete their Ph.D./Sc.D. degree as of the 2015 fall semester, including at least one year of full time coursework remaining as of the 2015 fall term, and
- Individuals who have not earned a doctoral degree at any time, in any field.

Receipt of the fellowship award is conditioned upon each awardee providing satisfactory documentation that he or she meets the eligibility requirements.

CRITERIA FOR SELECTION

The following will be considered as positive factors in choosing successful candidates:

- Evidence of superior academic achievement
- Degree of promise of continuing achievement as scholars and teachers

- Capacity to respond in pedagogically productive ways to the learning needs of students from diverse backgrounds
- Sustained personal engagement with communities that are underrepresented in the academy and an ability to bring this asset to learning, teaching, and scholarship at the college and university level
- Likelihood of using the diversity of human experience as an educational resource in teaching and scholarship
- Membership in one or more of the following groups whose underrepresentation in the American professoriate has been severe and longstanding:
 - Alaska Natives (Aleut, Eskimo or other Indigenous People of Alaska)
 - Black/African Americans
 - Mexican Americans/Chicanas/Chicanos
 - Native American Indians
 - Native Pacific Islanders (Hawaiian/Polynesian/Micronesian)
 - Puerto Ricans

Applications will be evaluated by panels of distinguished scholars selected by the National Academies. The panels will use academic records, essays, letters of recommendation, the application itself, and other appropriate materials as the basis for determining the extent to which candidates meet the eligibility requirements and the selection criteria. Review panels may also look at additional factors such as the suitability of the proposed institution for the applicant's plan of graduate study and the likelihood that they will require a minimum of three years to complete their Ph.D./Sc.D. study as of the 2015 fall semester.

ELIGIBLE FIELDS OF STUDY

Awards will be made for study in research-based Ph.D. or Sc.D. programs that include the following major disciplines and related interdisciplinary fields: American studies, anthropology, archaeology, art and theater history, astronomy, chemistry, communications, computer science, cultural studies, earth sciences, economics, engineering, ethnic studies, ethnomusicology, geography, history, international relations, language, life sciences, linguistics, literature, mathematics, performance studies, philosophy, physics, political science, psychology, religious studies, sociology, urban planning, and women's studies. Also eligible are interdisciplinary ethnic studies programs, such as African American studies and Native American studies, and other interdisciplinary programs, such as area studies, peace studies, and social justice. Research-based fields of education are eligible if the major field of study is listed above and is used to describe the Ph.D. or Sc.D. program of the applicant (e.g., sociology of education, anthropology and education).

Individuals enrolled in the following practice-oriented programs will not be supported: administration, audiology, business, consumer studies, curriculum development, education policy, human resource management, exercise physiology, filmmaking, fine arts, guidance, kinesiology, leadership, library and information science, management, nursing, occupational health, performing arts, personnel, physical education, physical therapy, public health,

rehabilitation science, speech pathology, social welfare, social work, and teacher education. In addition, awards will not be made for work leading to terminal master's degrees, the Ed.D. degree, the degrees of Doctor of Fine Arts (D.F.A.) or Doctor of Psychology (Psy.D.), or professional degrees in such areas as medicine, law, and public health, or for study in joint degree programs such as the M.D./Ph.D., J.D./Ph.D., and M.F.A./Ph.D. This program does not support the Ph.D. portion of a dual-degree program. Interdisciplinary areas of study that have major content in ineligible fields listed above will not be included in the competition.

FELLOWSHIP INSTITUTION

Fellowships are tenable at any fully accredited, nonprofit, nonproprietary U.S. institution of higher education offering a Ph.D. or Sc.D. degree in the eligible fields of study. All arrangements for acceptance into a doctoral program at the chosen institution are the responsibility of the applicant. An applicant need not be accepted by the chosen institution at the time of application.

PREVIOUS GRADUATE STUDY

Predocutorial fellowships are intended for students who have enrolled or plan to enroll in a Ph.D. or Sc.D. program no later than fall 2015, including:

- Undergraduates in their senior year,
- Individuals who have completed undergraduate study,
- Individuals who have completed some graduate study, and
- Individuals already enrolled in a Ph.D. or Sc.D. program who provide evidence that they can fully utilize a three-year fellowship award. A verification form affirming this is required for those in a graduate program for which Ford Foundation support is sought.

STIPEND AND BENEFITS

ANNUAL STIPEND: \$24,000

- Expenses paid to attend at least one Conference of Ford Fellows (see below)
- Access to Ford Fellow Liaisons, a network of former Ford Fellows who have volunteered to provide mentoring and support to current fellows

TENURE

Fellowship recipients must begin the first year's tenure on September 1, 2015, and must remain on tenure full-time for the academic year. After the first year of fellowship tenure, fellows may choose to defer funding for up to two years. All three years of support must be used within a five-year period.

CONDITIONS OF FELLOWSHIPS

Predocutorial fellows are required to enroll full-time in a program leading to a Ph.D. or Sc.D. degree in an eligible, research-based (dissertation-required) program of study. Students enrolled in a terminal master's program will not be supported. Those who accept a predocutorial fellowship must agree to the stipulations in the Terms of Appointment for Ford Foundation Fellows that accompanies the award notification. In addition, Ford Fellows must agree to participate in regular updates of the Directory of Ford Fellows, as well as periodic surveys designed to demonstrate the impact of this program.

CONFERENCE OF FORD FELLOWS

- A unique national conference of a select group of high-achieving scholars committed to diversifying the professoriate and using diversity as a resource for enriching the education of all students
- Networking with peers and "elders"
- Face to face conversations with university and academic presses
- Publication workshops
- Strategies to complete the dissertation
- Planning an academic career
- Career advancement workshops
- Proposal, grant-writing, and research funding advice
- Paper and poster presentations with supportive comments and critiques from colleagues
- Opportunities to identify mentors and peers from across the country
- Opportunities to interact with established and emerging scholars in diverse fields

HOW TO APPLY

The on-line fellowship application is available at:
<http://national-academies.org/ford>

Applicants must register and establish a personal user ID and password. All application materials become the property of the National Academies and are not returned to applicants. Please note that all application materials must be written in English.

In order to be reviewed, **the on-line application must be submitted by 5:00 P.M. Eastern Time on November 19, 2014.** Supplementary Materials must be received in the Fellowships Office by **January 9, 2015.** Items listed below in **boldface** are required.

ON-LINE APPLICATION —

DEADLINE NOVEMBER 19, 2014

- **Personal information, contact information, educational background (names of all post-secondary institutions attended, years attended, degrees received),**
- List of any honors, awards, fellowships, employment, and publications,
- **Statement of previous research (maximum 2 pages, double-spaced),**
- **Essay describing proposed plan of graduate study and research and the applicant's long-range career goals (maximum 2 pages, double-spaced, avoid technical jargon),**
- **Personal statement (maximum 2 pages, double-spaced) that describes the applicant's background and experience and commitment to the goals of the Ford Foundation Fellowships program by addressing *all* of the following that apply:**
 - **the applicant's capacity to respond in pedagogically productive ways to the learning needs of students from diverse backgrounds**
 - **the applicant's sustained personal engagement with communities that are underrepresented in the academy**

and ability to bring this asset to learning, teaching and scholarship at the college or university level

- the applicant's likelihood of using the diversity of human experience as an educational resource in teaching and scholarship
- the applicant's membership in one or more of the following groups whose underrepresentation in the American professoriate has been severe and longstanding:
 - Alaska Natives (Aleut, Eskimo or other Indigenous People of Alaska)
 - Black/African Americans
 - Mexican Americans/Chicanas/Chicanos
 - Native American Indians
 - Native Pacific Islanders (Hawaiian/Polynesian/Micronesian)
 - Puerto Ricans
- **Names and contact information of a minimum of 3 professors who will upload a letter of reference on your behalf (4 letters are highly recommended).**

Applications with less than 3 letters submitted by January 9, 2015 will not be reviewed.

SUPPLEMENTARY MATERIALS — *STRICTLY ENFORCED DEADLINE* *JANUARY 9, 2015*

The following transcripts must be uploaded by the fellowship applicant to the fellowship application module¹:

- **Baccalaureate degree transcript showing all undergraduate work completed prior to fall 2014, including grades, and baccalaureate degree award date. Note: baccalaureate degree award date is not required for those applicants who have not completed the baccalaureate degree at the time of fellowship application.**
- **Graduate school transcript(s) showing all graduate work completed prior to fall 2014.** Applicants who entered graduate school in fall 2014 should upload a graduate transcript that indicates grades received in fall 2014. If this is not possible, a letter from the graduate institution attesting to progress made should be uploaded by the fellowship applicant in its place.

¹ Unofficial transcripts or grade reports are acceptable for the review; however, if offered an award, applicants will be required to submit official transcripts to verify the accuracy of the uploaded transcripts or grade reports. All transcript documents must be in .pdf file format and each individual file size must be less than 4MB prior to upload.

- **Letters of reference** (all letters must be submitted electronically); a **minimum of 3 and a maximum of 5 letters of reference should be submitted on behalf of each applicant; applications with less than 3 letters submitted by January 9, 2015 will not be reviewed (if in graduate school, at least one letter should be submitted by a faculty adviser or other faculty member in the applicant's current department),**
- **Verification of Predoctoral Status (VS) Form² to affirm that an applicant already enrolled in a Ph.D. or Sc.D. program still requires a minimum of three-years to complete the Ph.D. including at least one year of full time coursework as of the 2015 fall semester, and**
- GRE General Test Scores.³

Applicants should regularly monitor file completeness using the tools provided in the fellowship application **to ensure that all required** supporting documents have been uploaded (including documents uploaded by third parties such as letters of recommendation and Verification of Doctoral Degree Status (VS) forms) before the **January 9, 2015 deadline. Incomplete applications will not be included in the competition.**

ADVANCE PREPARATION

Prepare essays in advance and save each in a separate file so that you are prepared to upload these texts. Get feedback from advisers, mentors, and colleagues.

Contact potential referees. Provide a draft of your research proposal to your recommenders. Be certain that they agree to upload a letter of reference for you and that they can do so by the deadline of January 9, 2015. The on-line system will require you to provide an e-mail address for each referee.

The Ford Foundation Fellowships program also provides dissertation fellowships for students who have completed all the requirements for the Ph.D. or Sc.D. except for writing a dissertation, and postdoctoral fellowships for Ph.D. or Sc.D. recipients. Visit our Web site for more information.

² In a one-page (maximum) statement, applicants must verify that they still require a minimum of three years to complete the Ph.D./Sc.D. as of the 2015 fall semester. Applicants should not provide information regarding their financial situation. Advisers must sign and submit a standard National Academies Verification of Predoctoral Status (VS) form confirming that the applicant requires a minimum of three years of work to complete the Ph.D./Sc.D. degree as of the 2015 fall semester, and that at least one of the three years will be dedicated to full time course work. Applicants who are preparing to write their dissertation should apply for a dissertation fellowship. Predoctoral applicants who are determined to be at the dissertation stage will be withdrawn from the review.

³ While the National Academies Fellowships Office encourages submission of GRE General Test scores for applicants who are not yet admitted into the Ph.D./Sc.D. programs for which Ford Foundation support is sought, submitting GRE scores is optional for these applicants. GRE scores should not be submitted, and will not be accepted, from applicants already enrolled in Ph.D./Sc.D. programs. See on-line application instructions for details.