

Ford Foundation Fellowship Program

For Achieving Excellence in
College and University Teaching

2015 PROGRAM ANNOUNCEMENT

Administered by the National Academies

DISSERTATION FELLOWSHIPS

**On-line Application Deadline:
NOVEMBER 14, 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.

DISSERTATION AWARDS

This year the program will award approximately 30 dissertation fellowships. The dissertation fellowships provide one year of support for individuals working to complete a dissertation leading to a Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) or Doctor of Science (Sc.D.) degree. The Ford Foundation Dissertation fellowship is intended to support the final year of writing and defense of the dissertation.

Dissertation 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 dissertation 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,
- Ph.D. or Sc.D. degree candidates studying in an eligible research-based discipline in a dissertation-required program at a U.S. non-proprietary educational institution, 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, or 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 whether the applicant has advanced to dissertation candidacy and will fully utilize 9 to 12 months of fellowship support prior to receiving the Ph.D. or Sc.D.

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, education, 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.

VERIFICATION OF DOCTORAL DEGREE CANDIDACY

A valid National Academies Verification of Doctoral Degree Candidacy Form, signed by the adviser or other authorized official, must be received by the Fellowships Office of the National Academies by January 9, 2015 to confirm that an applicant has advanced to doctoral candidacy.

Applicants should expect to complete the dissertation during the 2015–2016 academic year, but no later than fall 2016.

STIPEND AND BENEFITS

ONE-YEAR STIPEND: \$25,000

- Expenses will be 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

The tenure of a dissertation fellowship will be no less than 9 months and no more than 12 months, with tenure beginning no earlier than June 1, 2015 and no later than September 1, 2015.

CONDITIONS OF FELLOWSHIPS

Dissertation fellows are expected to be engaged in a full-time program leading to a Ph.D. or Sc.D. degree in an eligible field of study. Those who accept a dissertation 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 this website: <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 14, 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 14, 2014.

- **Personal information, contact information, educational background (names of all institutions attended, years attended, degrees received)**
- List of any honors, awards, fellowships, employment, and publications,
- **Statement of previous research (maximum 2 pages, double-spaced),**
- **Annotated bibliography (two to three sentences each for no more than ten key sources),**
- **Abstract of dissertation (maximum 1 page, double-spaced),**
- **Essay explaining the plan and timeline for completing the dissertation and describing the applicant's long-range career goals (maximum 3 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 module:¹

- **Transcript from institution that awarded baccalaureate degree; must include grades and degree completion date (if applicable),**
- **Transcript(s) showing completion of any Master's degree (if applicable) and official Ph.D./Sc.D. transcript showing all graduate work completed as of fall 2014,**

¹ Unofficial transcripts or grade reports are acceptable for the review; however, if offered a fellowship 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 of reference 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 (at least one letter should be submitted by a faculty adviser or other faculty member in the applicant's current department), and**
- **Verification of Doctoral Degree Candidacy Form.²**

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

ADVANCE PREPARATION

Prepare essays and annotated bibliography 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 predoctoral fellowships for students working toward a Ph.D. or Sc.D., and postdoctoral fellowships for Ph.D. or Sc.D. recipients. Visit our Web site for more information.

² The applicant's adviser or other appropriate departmental or university official must submit a standard National Academies Verification of Doctoral Degree Status Form verifying that the applicant has completed all requirements for a Ph.D. or Sc.D. degree except for writing the dissertation by January 9, 2015.