

# Ford Foundation Fellowship Program

For Achieving Excellence in  
College and University Teaching

**2015 PROGRAM ANNOUNCEMENT**

Administered by the National Academies

# POSTDOCTORAL 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.

## POSTDOCTORAL AWARDS

This year the program will award approximately 18 postdoctoral fellowships. The postdoctoral fellowships provide one year of support for individuals engaged in postdoctoral study after the attainment of the Ph.D. or Sc.D. degree.

Postdoctoral 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 postdoctoral 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, and
- Individuals awarded a Ph.D. or Sc.D. degree no earlier than November 30, 2007 and no later than November 14, 2014 in an eligible research-based field from a U.S. educational institution.

*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. The quality of the plan of study or research, the bibliography, the appropriateness of the proposed fellowship activities, the choice of host institution, and the potential for career enhancement will also be carefully reviewed.

Review panels may also look at additional factors such as the likelihood that the applicant will fully utilize 9 to 12 months of postdoctoral support.

## ELIGIBLE FIELDS OF STUDY

Awards will be made for study in 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.

Awards will not be made in the following practice-oriented programs: 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 in such areas as medicine, law, and public health.

## LOCATION OF WORK AND PROPOSED RESEARCH

Fellowship applicants are encouraged to choose a host institution other than the institution with which they are affiliated at the time of application. Fellowships are awarded for full-time research at appropriate nonprofit institutions of higher education or research, normally in the United States, including universities, museums, libraries, government or national laboratories, privately sponsored nonprofit institutes, government chartered nonprofit research organizations, and centers for advanced study. Each applicant should designate a faculty member or other scholar who will serve as host at the proposed fellowship institution. If affiliating with another institution would create personal hardship, applicants may make special arrangements to travel several times to a research site for data collection or to confer with a chosen adviser.

Each applicant must present a clearly articulated plan of study or research that will further his or her career in higher education and should explain fully the particular benefits that would accrue from affiliation with the proposed institution. A fellow affiliating with a foreign institution may be asked to designate a U.S. institution to act as a liaison between the National Academies and the foreign institution, particularly for handling the disbursement of fellowship funds.

The applicant is responsible for making all arrangements for affiliation with the proposed host institution prior to submitting an application.

## STIPEND AND BENEFITS

### ONE-YEAR STIPEND: \$45,000

The stipend may be supplemented by sabbatical leave pay or other sources of support that do not carry with them teaching or other responsibilities. Fellowship funds may be disbursed through the employing institution if necessary for the continuation of health insurance or other benefits. No dependency allowance is available.

- 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 postdoctoral 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. Postdoctoral fellowships may not be deferred or delayed.

## CONDITIONS OF FELLOWSHIPS

Those who accept a postdoctoral fellowship must agree to the stipulations in the Terms of Appointment for Ford Foundation Fellows that accompanies the award letter. 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
- 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 web site: <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, publications and grants,
- **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),**
- **Abstract of Proposed Plan of Study or Research (maximum 1 page, double-spaced),**
- **Proposed Plan of Study or Research and 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**



demonstrates 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 or colleagues 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.**
- **Name and contact information for host mentor/colleague.**

**SUPPLEMENTARY MATERIALS (required) —  
STRICTLY ENFORCED DEADLINE  
JANUARY 9, 2015**

- **Ph.D. or Sc.D. transcript showing all Ph.D. or Sc.D. courses taken, final grades for each course and date of award of the Ph.D. or Sc.D. degree must be uploaded by the applicant<sup>1</sup>,**
- **Name and contact information for host mentor/colleague.**
- **Host letter** (stating willingness of proposed mentor and the research site to serve as the applicant's host), and
- **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).**

**Applicants should regularly monitor file completeness using the tools provided in the fellowship application to ensure that all required supporting materials have been received (including documents uploaded by third parties such as the host letter and letters of recommendation) 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.

Make contact with your proposed host institution and host mentor. Required host letter must meet the January 9, 2015 deadline.

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

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<sup>1</sup> Unofficial transcripts or grade reports for the Ph.D. or Sc.D. study 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. Transcript documents must be in .pdf file format and the transcript file size must be less than 4MB prior to upload.