

# Ford Foundation Fellowship Program

For Achieving Excellence in  
College and University Teaching

## 2017 PROGRAM ANNOUNCEMENT

Administered by the National Academies of Sciences,  
Engineering, and Medicine

# POSTDOCTORAL FELLOWSHIPS

**Online Application Deadline:  
NOVEMBER 10, 2016**

**Announcement of Awards:  
MARCH 2017**

<http://national-academies.org/ford>

*The National Academies of  
SCIENCES • ENGINEERING • 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 24 postdoctoral fellowships. These fellowships provide one year of support for individuals engaged in postdoctoral study after the attainment of the Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) or Doctor of Science (Sc.D.) degree.

Postdoctoral fellowships will be awarded in a national competition administered by the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine (the 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, 2009 and no later than November 10, 2016 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 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, engineering, ethnic studies, ethnomusicology, geography, history, international relations, language, life sciences, linguistics, literature, mathematics, performance study, 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).

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

education, physical therapy, public health, rehabilitation science, social welfare, social work, speech pathology, 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 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 paid to attend at least one Conference of Ford Fellows (see below)
- Access to Ford Fellow Regional 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, 2017 and no later than September 1, 2017. Postdoctoral fellowships may not be deferred or delayed.

## CONDITIONS OF THE FELLOWSHIP

Those who accept a postdoctoral 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
- 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 online 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 Academies and are not returned to applicants. Please note that all application materials must be written in English.

In order to be reviewed, the **online application must be submitted by 5:00 P.M. Eastern Time on November 10, 2016. Supplementary Materials must be uploaded by 5:00 P.M. Eastern Time on January 10, 2017.** Items listed below in **bold** are required.

### ONLINE APPLICATION — DEADLINE NOVEMBER 10, 2016

- **Personal information, contact information, educational background (names of all post-secondary institutions attended, years attended, and degrees received)**
- List of any honors, awards, fellowships, and employment
- **Personal statement (maximum two pages, 12-point font, double-spaced) describing the applicant's background and experience and commitment to the goals of the Ford Foundation Fellowship Programs 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
- **Statement of previous research and scholarly productivity (maximum three pages, 12-point font, double-spaced) including a list of publications and presentations**
- **Abstract of dissertation (maximum one page, 12-point font, double-spaced)**
- **Proposed Plan of Study or Research and long-range career goals (maximum three pages, 12-point font, double-spaced)**
- **Annotated bibliography (two to four sentences each for no more than ten key sources, including primary and secondary sources)**
- **Name and contact information for host mentor/colleague**
- **Names and contact information of a minimum of three professors or colleagues who will upload a letter of recommendation on the applicant's behalf (four letters are highly recommended)**

**Applications with fewer than three letters of recommendation submitted by January 10, 2017 will not be reviewed.**

<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. All transcript documents must be .pdf files and each individual file size must be less than 4MB prior to upload.

<sup>2</sup> The applicant's department chair or adviser must sign the Verification of Doctoral Degree Attainment form for applicants whose Ph.D. or Sc.D. degree has not been awarded by November 10, 2016 confirming that the applicant has met all requirements for the Ph.D./Sc.D. degree including successful defense of the dissertation proposal by November 10, 2016. The signed form must be attached to the Ph.D./Sc.D. transcript file and uploaded to the application as a single .pdf document.

## SUPPLEMENTARY MATERIALS (REQUIRED) —

### ***STRICTLY ENFORCED DEADLINE***

**JANUARY 10, 2017**

**The following materials must be uploaded by the applicant to the fellowship application module:**

- **Ph.D. or Sc.D. transcript<sup>1</sup> 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.**
- **Verification of Doctoral Degree Attainment form.<sup>2</sup>**

**Host letter** (stating willingness of proposed mentor and the research site to serve as the applicant's host) **must be uploaded by host mentor.** This letter is in addition to the required minimum of three letters of recommendation.

**Letters of recommendation** (all letters must be .pdf files) **must be uploaded by the letter writer. A minimum of three and a maximum of five letters of recommendation should be submitted on behalf of each applicant. Applications with fewer than three letters submitted by January 10, 2017 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 the host letter and letters of recommendation) before the January 10, 2017 deadline. Incomplete applications will not be included in the competition.**

## **ADVANCE PREPARATION**

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

Contact potential letter writers and provide them with a draft of your research proposal. Be certain they agree to upload a letter of recommendation for you and that they can do so by the January 10, 2017 deadline. The online system will require you to provide an e-mail address for each letter writer.

Contact your proposed host institution and host mentor to confirm their collaboration. The required host letter must meet the January 10, 2017 deadline.

*The Ford Foundation Fellowship Programs also provide predoctoral 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 website for more information.*