



2018 PROGRAM ANNOUNCEMENT
FORD FOUNDATION PREDOCTORAL
FELLOWSHIPS
For Achieving Excellence in
College and University Teaching



**ONLINE APPLICATION DEADLINE:
DECEMBER 14, 2017**

**ANNOUNCEMENT OF AWARDS:
MARCH 2018**

WWW.NAS.EDU/FORD

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 65 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 Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine (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 U.S. citizens, U.S. nationals, and U.S. permanent residents (holders of a Permanent Resident Card), as well as 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 (not for profit) U.S. institution of higher education,
- Individuals who as of the 2018 fall semester require a minimum of three years study to complete their Ph.D./Sc.D. degree, 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

CRITERIA FOR SELECTION, CONT.

- 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 2018 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 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).

Individuals enrolled in the following programs will not be supported: 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 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 any portions of joint degree programs such as the M.D./Ph.D., J.D./Ph.D., and M.F.A./Ph.D. 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, non-proprietary (not for profit) U.S. institution of higher education offering a Ph.D. or Sc.D. degree in the eligible fields of study.

PREVIOUS GRADUATE STUDY

Predocutorial fellowships are intended for students who have enrolled or plan to enroll in an eligible Ph.D. or Sc.D. program no later than fall 2018, 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.

For applicants who have already begun graduate studies, a Verification of Doctoral Degree Status (VS) form, signed by the adviser or other department official, is required.

STIPEND AND BENEFITS

One-year stipend: \$24,000

- Expenses paid to attend at least one Conference of Ford Fellows
- Access to Ford Fellow Regional 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 of tenure on September 1, 2018 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 THE FELLOWSHIP

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 are not eligible. 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:

- Opportunities to interact with established and emerging scholars in diverse fields
- Opportunities to identify mentors and peers from across the country
- Paper and poster presentations with supportive comments and critiques from colleagues
- Proposal, grant-writing, and research funding advice
- Publication workshops and face to face conversations with university and academic presses
- Career advancement workshops
- Planning an academic career

HOW TO APPLY

Applicants must register in the Ford application system 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 considered for review, **the online application must be submitted by 5:00 P.M. Eastern Time on December 14, 2017.** Supplementary Materials must be uploaded by 5:00 P.M. on January 9, 2018. Items listed below in **bold** are required.

ONLINE APPLICATION – DEADLINE DECEMBER 14, 2017

- **Personal information, contact information, educational background (names of all post-secondary institutions attended, years attended, degrees received), undergraduate and graduate GPAs for all degrees earned or in progress, as of fall 2017**
- List of any honors, awards, fellowships, and employment
- **Personal statement 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 including a list of publications and presentations
- Proposed plan of graduate study and research and the applicant's long-range career goals
- Names and contact information of a minimum of three professors who will upload a letter of recommendation on the applicant's behalf (four letters are highly recommended; five letters maximum)

Applications with fewer than three letters submitted by January 9, 2018 will not be reviewed.

SUPPLEMENTARY MATERIALS (REQUIRED) – STRICTLY ENFORCED DEADLINE JANUARY 9, 2018

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

- Baccalaureate degree transcript¹ showing all undergraduate work completed prior to fall 2017, 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 2017. Applicants who entered graduate school in fall 2017 should upload a graduate transcript that indicates grades received in the fall 2017 term. If this is not possible, a letter from the graduate institution attesting to progress made must be uploaded by the fellowship applicant in place of the fall 2017 transcript or grade report.
- For applicants already enrolled in a graduate program, a Verification of Doctoral Degree Status (VS) form and one-page (maximum) essay.² The applicant's adviser must sign the official National Academies Verification form to confirm that the applicant requires a minimum of three years to complete the Ph.D./Sc.D. degree as of the 2018 fall semester.
- GRE General Test Scores³

Letters of recommendation 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 9, 2018 will not be reviewed (if in graduate school, at least one letter should be submitted by a faculty advisor or other faculty member in the current department).

Applicants should regularly monitor file completeness using the tools provided in the fellowship application to ensure that all required supporting documents have been received (including letters of recommendation and Verification of Doctoral Degree Status (VS) forms) before the January 9, 2018 deadline. Incomplete applications will not be included in the competition.

Advance Preparation

Prepare essays in advance and save each in a separate .pdf file so that you are ready to upload these documents. Get feedback from advisers, mentors, and colleagues; review your essays for typos and grammatical errors.

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 9, 2018 deadline. The online system will require you to provide an e-mail address for each letter writer.

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

Contact information:
Fellowships Office
The National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine
500 Fifth Street, NW
Washington, DC 20001

202-334-2872
Website: <http://national-academies.org/ford>
E-mail: FordApplications@nas.edu

¹Unofficial 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 previously uploaded transcripts or grade reports.

²In addition to the signed form, applicants must verify with a one-page (maximum) statement that they still require a minimum of three years of full-time study to complete the Ph.D./Sc.D. as of the fall 2018 semester. Applicants who are preparing to write their dissertation should apply for a Ford Foundation Dissertation Fellowship. Predoctoral applicants who are determined to be at the dissertation stage will be withdrawn from the review.

³While the submission of GRE General Test scores is encouraged 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 their Ph.D./Sc.D. program. See online application instructions for details.