2019 PROGRAM ANNOUNCEMENT
Ford Foundation Dissertation
FELLOWSHIPS
For Achieving Excellence in
College and University Teaching

ONLINE APPLICATION DEADLINE:
DECEMBER 6, 2018

NOTIFICATION OF AWARDS:
MARCH 2019
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.

DISSERTATION AWARDS

This year the program will award approximately 36 dissertation fellowships. These 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 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 dissertation 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[1], political asylees and refugees, 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 (not for profit) institution of higher education who will complete the dissertation during the 2019-2020 academic year, but no later than fall 2020, 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.

POSITIVE FACTORS FOR SELECTION
- 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

POSITIVE FACTORS 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 positive factors for selection. Review panels may also look at additional factors such as whether the applicant has advanced to dissertation candidacy, will fully utilize 9 to 12 months of fellowship support prior to receiving the Ph.D. or Sc.D., or is either too early or too far along in the Ph.D. study to comply with the dissertation fellowship timeline requirements.

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 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 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 an eligible fields of study.

VERIFICATION OF DOCTORAL DEGREE STATUS

- Applicants must have completed all departmental and institutional requirements for their degree, except for writing and defense of the dissertation. These requirements include, for example, required course work, language requirements, admission to doctoral candidacy, and approval of the dissertation proposal. An official National Academies Verification of Doctoral Degree Status (VS) form, signed by the adviser or other authorized official, must be uploaded to the fellowship application by January 8, 2019. No other form or letter will be accepted for this purpose.
- Applicants should expect to complete their dissertation during the 2019-2020 academic year.

STIPEND AND BENEFITS

- A one-year stipend of $25,000
- Attendance at the annual 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, and access to other networking resources

TENURE

Each Fellow is expected to begin tenure on June 1 (for 12 months) or September 1 (for 9 or 12 months) of the year in which the award is received. Any Fellow having difficulty in meeting this stipulation should consult the Fellowships Office prior to accepting the award. Dissertation fellowships may not be deferred or delayed.

CONDITIONS OF THE FELLOWSHIP

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:
- Opportunities to interact with established and emerging scholars in diverse fields
- Opportunities to identify mentors and peers from across the country
- Oral 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

HOW TO APPLY

Applicants must register online and establish a personal user ID and password. All application materials must be written in English and become the property of the National Academies.

The online application must be submitted by 5:00 PM Eastern Standard Time (EST) on December 6, 2018. Supplementary Materials must be uploaded by **5:00 PM on January 8, 2019. No extensions or exceptions will be made for these deadlines.** Items listed below in **bold** are required.

ONLINE APPLICATION –
STRICTLY ENFORCED DEADLINE
DECEMBER 6, 2018, 5 PM EST

- **Personal information, contact information, educational background (names of all post-secondary institutions attended, years attended, degrees received), as of fall 2018**
- 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**
- **Abstract of dissertation**
- **Proposed plan and timeline for completion of the dissertation describing the applicant's long-range career goals**
- **Annotated bibliography (two to four sentences each for no more than ten key sources, including primary and secondary sources)**
- **Names and contact information of a minimum of three individuals who will upload a letter of recommendation on the applicant's behalf (four letters are highly recommended; five letters maximum)**

SUPPLEMENTARY MATERIALS –
STRICTLY ENFORCED DEADLINE
JANUARY 8, 2019, 5 PM EST

The following materials must be uploaded by the applicant:
- **Baccalaureate degree transcript(s)[2] showing all undergraduate coursework completed, grades, and baccalaureate degree award date.**
- **Graduate school transcript(s) showing all graduate coursework completed or in progress as of fall 2018.**
- **Verification of Doctoral Degree Status (VS) form.**

The following materials must be uploaded by letter writers:
- **Letters of recommendation (maximum 4 MB)**

Applications with fewer than three letters of recommendation submitted by January 8, 2019 at 5 PM EST will not be reviewed.

Applicants should regularly monitor application completeness using the tools provided in the fellowship application **to ensure that all required supplementary materials have been received before the January 8, 2019 5 PM EST deadline. No extensions or exceptions will be made, and incomplete applications will not be included in the competition.**

Advance Preparation

Prepare essays and annotated bibliography in advance and save each in a separate .pdf file (maximum 4 MB) so that you are prepared 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 reference for you and that they can do so by the January 8, 2019, 5 PM EST deadline. The online system will require you to provide an e-mail address for each letter writer.

The Ford Foundation Fellowship Programs also provide predoctoral fellowships for students seeking a Ph.D. or Sc.D. 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

Phone: 202-334-2872
Website: http://nas.edu/ford
E-mail: FordApplications@nas.edu

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[1] Eligibility includes individuals with current status under the DACA Program, as well as individuals whose status may have lapsed but who continue to meet all the USCIS guidelines for DACA available here.

[2] 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 previously uploaded transcripts or grade reports.