Ford Foundation Fellowship Programs

*Predoctoral, Dissertation, and Postdoctoral Awards*

- Administered by the Fellowships Office
- The National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine
- Keck 576
- 500 Fifth ST NW
- Washington, DC 20001
- 202.334.2872
About Us:

The National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine

The Ford Foundation

Working with Visionaries on the Frontlines of Social Change Worldwide
History of the National Academies

The National Academy of Sciences was born in the travail of the Civil War. The Act of Incorporation, signed by President Lincoln on March 3, 1863, established service to the nation as its dominant purpose. The act also named 50 charter members.

Over the years, the National Academy of Sciences has broadened its services to the government. During World War I it became apparent that the limited membership -- the numbering only about 150 -- could not keep up with the volume of requests for advice regarding military preparedness. In 1916 the Academy established the National Research Council at the request of President Wilson to recruit specialists from the larger scientific and technological communities to participate in that work.

Recognizing the value of scientific advice to the nation in times of peace as well as war, Wilson issued an executive order at the close of World War I asking the Academy of perpetuate the National Research Council. Subsequent executive orders, by President Eisenhower in 1956 and President Bush in 1993, have affirmed the importance of the National Research Council and further broadened its charter.

Under the authority of its charter, the National Academy of Sciences established the National Academy of Engineering in 1964 and the Institute of Medicine in 1970, which became the National Academy of Medicine in 2015. Much like the National Academy of Sciences, each of these organizations consists of members elected by peers in recognition of distinguished achievement in their respective fields. The National Academy of Sciences includes about 2,100 members, the National Academy of Engineering about 2,000, and the National Academy of Medicine about 1,600. All three organizations also elect foreign associates.
Mission Statement:

• We believe that all people should have the opportunity to reach their full potential, contribute to society, and have a voice in the decisions that affect them.

• We believe the best way to achieve these goals is to encourage initiatives by those living and working closest to where problems are located; to promote collaboration among the nonprofit, government and business sectors; and to ensure participation by men and women from diverse communities and all levels of society. In our experience, such activities help build common understanding, enhance excellence, enable people to improve their lives and reinforce their commitment to society.

• We work mainly by making grants or loans that build knowledge and strengthen organizations and networks. Since our financial resources are modest compared with societal needs, we focus on key problem areas and program strategies.
Ford Foundation Fellowship Programs 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.
Eligibility

• U.S. citizens, nationals, permanent residents and individuals granted deferred status under the DACA program
• Currently enrolled or will be enrolled in Ph.D. or Sc.D. degree program by the following fall term
• Stated commitment to diversity
• Studying a research-based discipline
• Intend to pursue a career in teaching or research at the college or university level
Eligible Fields of Study

- Ph.D. or Sc.D. study in an eligible research-based (dissertation required) field
- Eligible fields (broad list) include: sciences, mathematics, engineering, social sciences, humanities and education
- Ineligible fields include: medicine, law, social work, public health, information science, or other practice-based disciplines
Predoctoral Specifics

• Three years of support
• Must be near or at the beginning of graduate study
• “Verification of Predoctoral Degree Status” form signed by adviser required if already in graduate school
• GRE scores: not required, but recommended*

*Note: GRE scores will only be accepted from applicants not yet accepted to graduate school
Dissertation Specifics

• One year of support
• Intended for final year of writing and defense of dissertation
• Must be all but dissertation (ABD) meaning all requirements (except for writing and defense of dissertation) completed by supplementary materials deadline
• Verification of Doctoral Degree Status Form
• Should plan to complete dissertation no later than December 2017
Postdoctoral Specifics

• One year of fellowship support
• PhD or ScD degree must be awarded by application deadline or within last 7 years
• Host Institution – recommended that it be other than employing institution
• Fellowship is also tenable at hospitals, libraries, museums and other non-academic institutions
Predoctoral Benefits

• 60 fellowship awards
• $24,000 stipend per year/three years of support
• Expenses paid to attend at least one Conference of Ford Fellows
• Access to Ford Fellow Liaisons, a network of Ford Fellow volunteers who will provide mentoring and support to current Ford Fellows
Dissertation Benefits

- 36 fellowships
- $25,000 fellowship stipend for one year of fellowship support
- Expenses paid to attend at least one annual Conference of Ford Fellows
- Access to Ford Fellow Liaisons, a network of Ford Fellow volunteers who will provide mentoring and support to current Ford Fellows
Postdoctoral Benefits

• 20 fellowships
• $45,000 fellowship stipend award for one year; may be paid through employing institution in order to retain benefits/salary
• Expenses paid to attend at least one annual Conference of Ford Fellows
• Access to Ford Fellow Liaisons, a network of Ford Fellow volunteers who will provide mentoring and support to current Ford Fellows
Conference of Ford Fellows

A select group of high-achieving scholars from diverse backgrounds

• Networking with peers and elders
• Meetings with university & academic presses
• Career advancement workshops
• Interaction with established & emerging scholars in diverse fields
Simple Things

• Start early
• Use all resources provided:
  • Program website - read through all pages
  • Online application components
  • Helpful Resources
  • Application Instructions
• Content and technical help available
• Be consistent in narrative parts of application
• Proofread your documents
• Cultivate your letters of reference
Letters of Recommendation

- Minimum three required; four recommended
- Contact information including email address must be entered by the applicant for each recommender
- Applicants notify recommenders via the application; email sent to recommenders with login and password
- Letters are uploaded by the recommender directly to applicant’s application file
- Receipt of letters may be monitored by the applicant; receipt date is posted by the online application system once submitted
Statement of Previous Research and Scholarly Productivity

• Particularly important in sciences and social sciences

• Mention all undergraduate research experiences – as part of classwork or in activities outside of class (internships, summer research programs, etc.)

• Explain how your experience prepares you for graduate study

• List your Publications and Presentations (last five years)
Proposed Plan of Study

• Describe long-range goals; include realistic timeline to reach goals

• Start early so you can revise; share draft with your adviser, faculty member, or other colleague to review for typos and grammatical errors

• Be concise and specific; do not repeat previous research verbatim – illustrate how you will expand upon previous research with your proposal

• Avoid excessive jargon
Personal Statement

Address all of the following that apply:

• 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 ability to bring this asset to learning, teaching and scholarship at the college or university level
• Likelihood of using the diversity of human experiences as an educational resources in teaching and scholarship
Personal Statement (cont.)

- Membership in one or more of the underrepresented groups whose representation in the American professoriate has been severe and longstanding
- Describe past and ongoing community service efforts including:
  - tutoring and mentoring students in challenging environments
  - Leadership and organizational skills that benefit a larger community
  - Participation in housing or public service projects

Policy and Global Affairs

The National Academies of
SCIENCES • ENGINEERING • MEDICINE
Additional Application Items

• Annotated Bibliography:
  - Requested for all Dissertation and Postdoctoral applicants
  - Cite up to ten primary and secondary sources for the proposed plan with a two to four sentence description for each source

• Supplementary Materials - confirm the minimum submission requirements
Online Application

http://national-academies.org/ford

1. Register for the online application-create login and password
2. Complete required forms and upload essays
3. Each essay should be saved as a separate file
4. Essays in excess of the stated limits cannot be uploaded
5. View all essays after upload
6. BE SURE TO SUBMIT YOUR APPLICATION!
FORD FOUNDATION FELLOWSHIP PROGRAMS

Through its Fellowship Programs, 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, Dissertation, and Postdoctoral fellowships will be awarded in a national competition administered by the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine on behalf of the Ford Foundation. Prospective applicants should carefully read the eligibility requirements, the Predoctoral, Dissertation, or Postdoctoral Fact Sheets, and the instructions for How to Apply.

Awards will be made for study in research-based Ph.D. or Sc.D. programs; practice oriented degree programs are not eligible for support. In addition to the fellowship award, Ford Fellows are eligible to attend the 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.

Eligibility to apply for a Ford fellowship is limited to:

- All citizens, nationals, and permanent residents (holders of a Permanent Resident Card) of the United States, 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), and
- Individuals committed to a career in teaching and research at the college or university level.

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HOW TO APPLY

Follow the steps below to prepare your application submission to the Ford Foundation Fellowship Program:

1. Read through the following:
   - Fellowship Fact Sheet (Predoctoral, Dissertation, or Postdoctoral)
   - Application Requirements and Components (Predoctoral, Dissertation, or Postdoctoral)
   - Supplementary Materials Requirements and Deadlines

2. Contact your potential letter writers early to ensure they can submit a recommendation letter on your behalf by the supplementary materials deadline.

3. Familiarize yourself with Navigating the Online Application.

4. Review Helpful Resources for Preparing a Competitive Fellowship Application.

5. Confirm the eligibility of your field by looking it up in the Eligible Fields of Study List (Predoctoral, Dissertation, or Postdoctoral).


Continue to the Predoctoral Fact Sheet ➤ Continue to the Dissertation Fact Sheet ➤ Continue to the Postdoctoral Fact Sheet ➤

Back to Ford Home
Follow the step-by-step instructions below:

**Registering and Creating a Login and Password**
1. Go to the [Login Page](#).
2. Select Fellowship Application.
3. Select Create new login and password.
4. Enter information in the fields provided.
5. Keep a record of your login information in a secure place for future use.

Please refrain from creating multiple login IDs and passwords as it causes confusion for future log in attempts.

**Selecting Pages of the Application and Entering Data**
1. Locate the page you wish to complete by selecting it from the left navigation panel.
2. Follow the instructions provided for each section.
3. Enter the appropriate information on the page (information can be entered on any page of the application in any order).
4. Save your work on each page.
5. Select Logout when you wish to exit the current session.

**Adding and Notifying Recommendation Writers**
1. Select Recommender Info from the left navigation panel.
2. Select Click Here to Add an Individual.
3. Enter information for the recommendation writer and click Save.
4. Click Notify to send the recommendation writer an e-mail notification containing their login information and a request to upload a letter on your behalf.
5. Monitor the receipt of your recommendation letter through the online application module. Click Notify Again to send the recommendation writer another notification.

Contact your recommendation writers personally to advise them that they will be receiving an e-mail notification from [FordContentSupport@nas.edu](mailto:FordContentSupport@nas.edu) and confirm with them that they have received the message once you have sent the notification.

**Uploading Application Component Documents**
1. Select Uploads in the left navigation panel.
2. Follow the instructions provided for each section.
3. Click Browse, then select and open the file you wish to upload.
4. Click Upload (it may take several moments for the page to refresh).
5. Once the file has been successfully uploaded, select View File to ensure you have uploaded the correct document and it appears as you wish.
2018 Submission Deadlines

• Dissertation and Postdoctoral Application Submission Deadline:
  -December 7, 2017 (5 p.m. EST)

• Predoctoral Application Submission Deadline:
  -December 14, 2017 (5 p.m. EST)

• Supplementary Materials Receipt Deadline:
  -January 9, 2018 (all levels)
    (5 p.m. EST)
Good Luck!

To contact the Fellowship Office:

202-334-2872

infofell@nas.edu

http://national-academies.org/ford