



2021 PROGRAM ANNOUNCEMENT
**FORD FOUNDATION DISSERTATION
FELLOWSHIPS**
For Achieving Excellence in
College and University Teaching



**ONLINE APPLICATION DEADLINE:
DECEMBER 10, 2020**

**NOTIFICATION OF AWARDS:
MARCH 2021**

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 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); individuals granted deferred action status under the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals Program;¹ Indigenous individuals exercising rights associated with the Jay Treaty of 1794; individuals granted Temporary Protected Status; 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 in the U.S.;
- Individuals enrolled 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 who will complete the dissertation in a period of 9-12 months during the 2021-2022 academic year, but no later than Fall 2022;
- Individuals who, by December 10, 2020, have completed all departmental and institutional requirements for their degree, except for writing and defense of the dissertation; and
- Individuals who have not earned a doctoral degree at any time, in any field.

*Receipt of the fellowship award is conditioned upon awardees providing satisfactory documentation that they meet **all** 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

POSITIVE FACTORS FOR SELECTION, CONT.

- 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 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 and will fully utilize 9 to 12 months of fellowship support prior to receiving the Ph.D. or Sc.D.

ELIGIBLE FIELDS OF STUDY

Awards will be made for study in research-based Ph.D. or Sc.D. programs. Examples include: 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 unless the applicant can document that the program of study is research-based, requiring a dissertation, and the applicant plans to follow a career in teaching and research in academia: 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.

FELLOWSHIP INSTITUTION

Fellowships are tenable at any fully accredited, non-profit (not for profit) U.S. institution of higher education offering a Ph.D. or Sc.D. degree in an eligible field 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, by the application deadline. These requirements include, for example, required course work, language requirements, and admission to doctoral candidacy. The National Academies' Verification of Doctoral Degree Status form, signed by the graduate Adviser or department Chair, must be uploaded to the fellowship application by the supplementary materials deadline. No other form or letter will be accepted for this purpose.
- Applicants should expect to complete their dissertation during the 2021-2022 academic year.

STIPEND AND BENEFITS

- A one-year stipend of \$28,000
- An invitation to attend 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. Dissertation fellowships may not be deferred or delayed.

CONDITIONS OF THE FELLOWSHIP

Dissertation Fellows are expected to be enrolled in a full-time program leading to a Ph.D. or Sc.D. degree in an eligible field of study. Dissertation awards are intended to support Fellows who will be spending the majority of their time writing and defending the dissertation during the fellowship year. Participation in full-time paid or unpaid internships or other paid activities, even if required for degree completion, cannot be undertaken during the fellowship year.

Those who accept a dissertation fellowship must agree to the stipulations in the Terms of Appointment for Ford Foundation Fellows that accompany the award notification. In addition, 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 senior Ford Fellows
- Face-to-face conversations with university and academic presses
- One-on-one mentoring
- Publication and career advancement workshops
- Strategies to complete the dissertation
- Planning an academic career
- Proposal, grant-writing, and research funding advice
- Oral and poster presentations with supportive comments and critiques from colleagues
- Opportunities to interact with established and emerging scholars in diverse fields

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 10, 2020. Supplementary Materials must be uploaded by **5:00 PM on January 7, 2021. No extensions or exceptions will be made for these deadlines.** Items listed below in **bold** are required by the application deadline.

ONLINE APPLICATION – STRICTLY ENFORCED DEADLINE DECEMBER 10, 2020, 5 PM EST

- **Contact information, demographic information, education history (name, location, enrolled dates, degree received or currently pursuing and research field for all undergraduate and graduate institutions attended, years attended or currently attending as of Fall 2020)**
- Employment history, honors, and awards
- **Personal statement describing the applicant's background, 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

HOW TO APPLY, CONT.

- **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, which are the most important in shaping the current status of the problem which the applicant will be studying**

SUPPLEMENTARY MATERIALS – STRICTLY ENFORCED DEADLINE JANUARY 7, 2021, 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 transcript(s) showing all graduate coursework completed or in progress as of Fall 2020.
- Verification of Doctoral Degree Status form.

The following materials must be uploaded by letter writers:

- **Letters of recommendation** (three minimum; five maximum)

Applications with fewer than three letters of recommendation submitted by January 7, 2021, 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 7, 2021, 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 recommendation for you and that they can do so by the January 7, 2021, 5 PM EST deadline. The online system will require you to enter the name and e-mail address for each letter writer, and you must use the online notification tool to send them a link to upload their letter to your application. **Requesting four or five letters is recommended to ensure the minimum number of letters is received.**

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:

E-mail: FordApplications@nas.edu

Phone: 202-334-2872

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.

² Unofficial transcripts or grade reports are acceptable for the review of applications. If offered a fellowship award, awardees will be required to submit official transcripts to verify the accuracy of the unofficial transcripts or grade reports.