

Ford Foundation Fellowships: Predoctoral – Dissertation – Postdoctoral

September 5, 2017

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Categories and Approximate Number of Fellowships

Predocctoral Fellowship (*Pre*): 65 awards

Dissertation Fellowship (*Diss*): 36 awards

Postdoctoral Fellowship (*Post*): 24 awards

Your Qualifications

How does your research and/or your career goals fit in with the Ford Foundation Fellowship Program's mission?

“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.”

Universal Eligibility Requirements

- 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.
- Commitment to fulfilling the Ford Foundation's Program Goals

Specific Eligibility Requirements

- Be enrolled (*or planning to enroll*) in a PhD or ScD program for the fall 2018 semester (*Pre*) (*Diss*)
- Require at least 3 years of study (*Pre*)
- Not have earned a prior doctoral degree (*Pre*) (*Diss*)
- Finish the dissertation during the 2018-2019 academic year, but no later than the Fall semester of 2019 (*Diss*)
- Have received the PhD or ScD degree no earlier than 12/7/10 and no later than 12/7/17 (*Post*)

Eligible Fields of Study

- 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).

Ineligible Fields of Study

Individuals enrolled in the following practice-oriented 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.

This program does not support the Ph.D. portion of a dual-degree program. Interdisciplinary areas of study that have major content in ineligible fields listed above will not be included in the competition.

Selection Criteria

- 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

Selection Criteria

This criteria is not required but will be considered:

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 Rican

Predoctoral Stipend and Benefits

- Annual stipend: \$24,000
- Three years of stipends within a five year window (i.e. allows for deferrals)
- Expenses paid to attend at least one Conference of Ford Fellows, which includes professional development workshops, networking opportunities, access to book presses, paper and poster presentations, and more
- Access to Ford Fellows Liaisons, “a network of former Ford Fellows who have volunteered to provide mentoring and support to current fellows.”

Dissertation Stipend and Benefits

- One-year stipend: \$25,000
- Expenses paid to attend one Conference of Ford Fellows
- Access to Ford Fellow Liaisons

Postdoctoral Stipend and Benefits

- One-year Stipend: \$45,000
- The stipend may be supplemented by sabbatical leave pay/other sources of support that do not carry teaching/other responsibilities
- Expenses paid to attend one Conference of Ford Fellows
- Access to Ford Fellow Liaisons

Submission Materials – All Applications

- Profile Information: Contact information, demographic information, education history (name, location, enrolled date, degree received, and research field for all undergraduate and graduate institutions attended or currently attending as of fall 2017), employment history, honors, and awards
- Personal Statement
- Statement of Previous Research and Scholarly Productivity
- 3-5 letters of reference
- Transcripts

Predoctoral Specific Submission Materials

In addition, *predoctoral* applicants need to submit the following:

- Proposed plan of graduate study and research and the applicant's long-range career goals
- Verification of Doctoral Status

Dissertation Specific Submission Materials

In addition, *dissertation* applicants need to submit the following:

- Abstract of dissertation
- Proposed Plan for Completion of Dissertation and timeline describing the applicant's long-range career goals
- Annotated bibliography
- Verification of Doctoral Degree Candidacy

Postdoctoral Specific Submission Materials

In addition, *postdoctoral* applicants need to submit the following:

- Abstract of dissertation
- Proposed Plan of Study or Research and long-range career goals
- Annotated bibliography
- Verification of Doctoral Degree Status (VS) Form
- Host letter stating willingness of mentor and research site to serve as applicant's host

When Writing Your Essays

- Employ an assertive argument that fits the Ford's mission
- Grab the readers' attention in the first paragraph with your big ideas, big questions, or other hook
- Show how your project relates to the Ford Foundation's interests & goals
- Show how your research will benefit society
- Show how your project is innovative and will contribute to the scholarship in your field: new research methods, novel strategies of implementation, progressive pedagogy, etc.
- Show your track record of success: past accomplishments matter more than future plans
- Avoid technical jargon

Tips for Writing the Proposed Plan of Research/Study

- Explain how you would expect the completion of the plan to further your career in higher education and help you contribute to your field
- Explain what big, exciting, transformative goal you are working toward
- **Predoctoral Applicants:** Explain the “suitability” between the proposed institution and your study plan
- **Dissertation Applicants:** Demonstrate “the likelihood that the applicant will fully utilize 9 to 12 months of support”
- **Postdoctoral Applicants:** Explain how your choice of host institution will enhance your plan
- Include timeline for project completion

Tips for Writing the Personal Statement

- You must demonstrate non-academic activity that addresses the many publics in need of engagement and support on issues of diversity and equity
- Your vision is important – how are you going to be a leader of change?
- Describe past and ongoing community service
- Describe campus-based student activities or involvement in professional organizations that serve the community
- Discuss your teaching methods and/or academic interests that are inclusive of diversity
- Discuss employment that demonstrates a long-standing commitment to diversity and a multicultural society
- Discuss efforts to improve access and opportunity for all

Developing Your Application

- Pay attention to their rules & criteria
- Plan. Write. Edit. Rewrite. Proofread. Repeat.
- Reference writers: someone who can speak substantively & intimately about you and your work, not a Chair or Dean who barely knows you
- each of the 3-5 references needs to say something different
- The best applicants have a track record of awards
- Find copies of successful applications
- Use footnotes to save space, if allowed, and charts too if they are space-efficient

Developing Your Application

Consult your faculty advisor on the content and format of your essays; share drafts with your reference letter writers.

Also, utilize these offices that will help you develop your application:

- KU Writing Center
- Hall Center for the Humanities Grant Development Office
- Institute for Policy and Social Research Grant Writers