Ford Foundation Fellowship Programs
For Achieving Excellence in College and University Teaching

Administered by the National Research Council of the National Academies
Statement of Program Goals

Through its Fellowship Programs, the Ford Foundation seeks to:

- increase the diversity of nation’s college and university faculties by increasing ethnic and racial diversity,
- 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

✓ All citizens or nationals of the United States, nationals, permanent residents (green card holders), and individuals granted deferred action status (DACA), regardless of race, national origin, religion, gender, age, disability, or sexual orientation studying in a research-based discipline

✓ Evidence of superior academic achievement

✓ Committed to a career in teaching and research at college/university level
Eligibility

- Have not earned a doctoral degree at any time, in any field
- Enrolled in or planning to enroll in an eligible research-based program leading to a Ph.D. or Sc.D. degree
Eligible Research-Based Fields of Study

- Biological or Biomedical Sciences
- Chemistry, Earth Sciences, Physics, Astronomy, Mathematics, or Computer Sciences
- Education
- Engineering
- Psychology
- Anthropology, Archaeology, Folklore, Linguistics, Musicology or Ethnomusicology
- Literature, Language, Communication (humanities based) and Performance Studies
- History
- Philosophy and Religious Studies
- Sociology and Communication (social science based)
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
Criteria for Selection

• 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
Criteria for Selection

- Membership in one or more of the following groups whose underrepresentation in the American professoriate has been severe and longstanding:
  - Alaska Native (Eskimo or Aleut)
  - Black/African Americans
  - Mexican Americans/Chicano
  - Native American Indians
  - Native Pacific Islanders (Polynesian/Micronesian)
  - Puerto Ricans
Additional Predoctoral Requirements

- Must be able to use three full years of graduate support
- Applicants already enrolled in a PhD or ScD Program must submit a “Verification of Predoctoral Status” form signed by their adviser.
Additional Dissertation Requirements

• Must complete all requirements for PhD or ScD except for writing a dissertation
• A form signed by the adviser must be received by January deadline
• The dissertation should be completed while on tenure, or at the latest, no more than 6 months after completion of tenure
Additional Postdoctoral Requirements

• Ph.D. or Sc.D. must be completed
• Applicants may not have held this degree longer than 7 years
• Applicants should select a host institution other than their employing institution
Predoctoral Stipend & Benefits

• Approximately 60 fellowship awards
• Annual stipend paid to fellow
• Annual cost-of-education allowance
• Three years of support
• Expenses paid to attend one Conference of Ford Fellows
• Mentoring by Ford Liaisons
Dissertation Stipend & Benefits

- Approximately 35 fellowship awards
- Annual stipend
- Expenses paid to attend one Conference of Ford Fellows
- Mentoring by Ford Liaisons
Postdoctoral Stipend & Benefits

- Approximately 24 fellowships
- Annual Stipend
- $1,500 employing institution allowance (to be matched by employing institution)
- Expenses paid to attend one Conference of Ford Fellows
- Mentoring by Ford Liaisons
2014 Deadlines

Dissertation and Postdoctoral Deadline – November 15, 2013 (5PM Eastern Time)

Predoctoral Deadline – November 20, 2013 (5PM Eastern Time)

Supplementary materials receipt deadline – January 9, 2014
Postdoctoral Stipend & Benefits

- Approximately 24 fellowships
- Annual Stipend
- $1,500 employing institution allowance (to be matched by employing institution)
- Expenses paid to attend one Conference of Ford Fellows
- Mentoring by Ford Liaisons
Simple Things

• Start Early
• Follow Instructions
• Get Help
• Be Consistent
• Proofread
• Cultivate your letters of reference
Personal Statement

- Express commitment to the goals of the Ford Foundation Fellowships program
- Describe long-term career goals
- My background
  - First generation college graduate
  - First family member to seek a doctorate
- My involvement with the community
- My academic interests – how they serve the larger community that is diverse
- My goal as a college professor
  - Make sure all voices are heard
  - Make sure opportunities exist for all
Proposed Plan

- Start early
- Show it to your adviser, roommate, etc.
- Be concise but specific
- Avoid excessive jargon
- Use Times New Roman or other legible font
- Use a size 12 font
- Revise until submission
- Online review of file to check for completeness
How to write a successful plan

What are reviewers looking for?

– Academic Achievements
– Good writing/communication skills
– Demonstrated leadership
– Active commitment to a community, however defined (e.g., school, city, nation, world)
– Plans for graduate school
– Clear careers and personal goals
– Undergraduate research (if applicable)
– Promise for the future
How to write a successful plan

• Start early!
• Browse and Read (website)
• Get to know faculty members and advisors
• Build a competitive resume
  – Extracurricular activities and leadership roles
  – Include community service, internships, research, or relevant employment
• Sign up for fellowships information at conferences
Statement of Previous Research

• Important for applicants in sciences and social sciences
• Mention all undergraduate research experiences
• Make clear how your experience prepares you for graduate study
Letters of Reference

• An e-mail address must be provided for each referee
• Three letters required; four preferred
• Applicants click a button in the application to request reference letter
• Completeness of file may be checked by applicant on-line
Cultivate Your References

• Introduce yourself early on
• Tell referees about your plans
• Provide biographical information/C.V.
• Follow up
• Express thanks
Seeking International Support?

- Fellowships Office web site contains information (nationalacademies.org)
- NAFSA – Association of International Educators (nafsa.org)
- Web searches by institution helpful (Cornell University, U of Iowa, etc.)
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
Contact Information

• Feel free to contact the Fellowships Office
• 202-334-2872
• Infofell@nas.edu
• http://national-academies.org/ford