

Ford Foundation Diversity Fellowships

For Achieving Excellence in College and University Teaching

Administered by

The National Research Council of

The National Academies

Program Goals

Through its program of Diversity Fellowships the Ford Foundation seeks to:

- Increase the diversity of the nation's college and university faculties by increasing ethnic and racial diversity
- Maximize the educational benefits of diversity
- 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
- Evidence of superior academic achievement
- Committed to a career in teaching and research at college/university level
- Studying a research-based discipline

Eligible Fields of Study

- Behavioral and Social Science
 - Humanities
 - Engineering
 - Mathematics
 - Physical Sciences
 - Life Sciences
- **Practice-oriented** programs such as law, business, and nursing will not be supported

Criteria for Selection

The following will be considered as positive factors in choosing successful candidates:

- Evidence of superior academic achievement
- Degree of promise of continued 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 academics and use these experiences as a tool for teaching
- 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
- GRE General Test Scores are optional

Additional Dissertation Requirements

- Must complete all requirements for PhD or ScD except writing a dissertation
- A form signed by the adviser must be received by January 2008
- The dissertation should be completed while on the Ford program, or at the latest, no more than 6 months after completion of program

Additional Postdoctoral Requirements

- Ph.D. or Sc.D. must have been completed between December 2000 and November 2007
- Applicants may not have held this degree longer than 7 years
- Applicants should select a host institution other than their employing institution

Evaluation Results

- Fellowships Awarded
 - 60 Predoctoral
 - 35 Dissertation
 - 20 Postdoctoral
- Notifications will be published in April 2008

Stipend and Benefits

- **Predoctoral** - \$20,000 annual stipend for three years
 - \$2,000 Annual Cost-of-Education Allowance
- **Dissertation** - \$21,000 – for one year
- **Postdoctoral** - \$40,000 – for one year
 - \$1,500 Employing Institutional Allowance
- Expenses paid to attend at least one Conference of Ford Fellows
- Mentoring by Ford Liaisons

How to Apply

- All applicants are asked to apply via the web
<http://nationalacademies.org/fellowships>
- Each essay should be saved as a separate file
Word (doc), Rich Text (rtf), or PDF
- Be sure to “**SUBMIT**” your application

Simple Things

- Start Early
- Follow Instructions
- Get Help
- Be Consistent
- Proofread
- Cultivate your letters of reference

Proposed Plan

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

Personal Statement

- Express commitment to the goals of the Ford Foundation Diversity Fellowships Program
- Describe long-term career goals

Statement of Previous Research

- Mention all undergraduate and graduate research experiences
- Make clear how your experiences have prepared you for graduate study

Letters of Reference

- An e-mail address must be provided for each referee
- Applicants click a button in the application to forward a sign-on and password to referees
- Completeness of file may be checked on-line

Cultivate Your References

- Introduce yourself early
- Tell referees about your plans
- Provide biographical information/C.V.
- Follow up
- Express thanks

Application Deadlines

- Predoctoral - November 15, 2007
- Dissertation - November 29, 2007
- Postdoctoral - November 29, 2007

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/fellowships>

Contact Information



UPRM Liaison: Dr. Ingrid Padilla

- 787-832-4040 x-3417
- padillai@uprm.edu