



NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE HUMANITIES

DIVISION OF RESEARCH PROGRAMS

FELLOWSHIP PROGRAMS AT INDEPENDENT RESEARCH INSTITUTIONS

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Must we apply through Grants.gov?

Yes. All applications to this program must be submitted via Grants.gov. Instructions for submission to Grants.gov can be found in section D4 of the notice of funding opportunity.

I am a scholar seeking fellowship support for my research. May I apply to Fellowship Programs at Independent Research Institutions?

No, individuals may not apply. Only U.S. institutions that meet the eligibility requirements may apply. However, recipient institutions under this program offer NEH-supported fellowships to individuals. Please see the NEH website for opportunities in the [Division of Research Programs](#) that support research by individuals: [Fellowships](#), [NEH-Mellon Fellowships for Digital Publication](#), [Fellowships for Advanced Social Science Research on Japan](#), [Summer Stipends](#), the [Public Scholar Program](#), and Awards to Faculty at [Hispanic-Serving Institutions](#), [Historically Black Colleges and Universities](#), and [Tribal Colleges and Universities](#).

A research center at our university wants to expand its fellowship program. Are we eligible to apply?

While institutions of higher education are not eligible, the research center may apply if they are independent of the institution of higher education. Research centers or institutions must have their own 501(c)3 status and be financed, governed, and administered independently of institutions of higher education in order to be eligible to apply. See section C of the notice of funding opportunity for additional information.

Our independent research institution is ready to launch a fellowship program. May we apply for support of this program?

No. The FPIRI program only supports fellowship programs administered by the eligible entity for at least the three years immediately preceding the application deadline. See section C of the notice of funding opportunity for additional information.

Is a research center with a fellowship program that currently offers only pre-doctoral awards eligible to apply?

Yes. However, fellowships funded by NEH's program are restricted to scholars who have completed their professional training. Advanced degree candidates must have completed all requirements, except for the actual conferral of the degree, **by the application deadline for the fellowship.**

Can a funded center offer NEH fellowships for periods of less than four months?

No. NEH-supported fellowships must be for at least four and no more than twelve months long. However, the applicant can retain some flexibility in determining fellowship tenures. An institution awarded eighteen months of fellowship stipend funds could offer, for example, three six-month fellowships, three four-month fellowships and one six-month fellowship, or two nine-month fellowships. NEH fellowship stipends are calculated at a rate of \$5,000 per month.

Our postdoctoral fellowships are designed to run for two full years. Can NEH support be extended beyond twelve months for a fellowship?

No. The maximum term for an NEH-funded fellowship is twelve months, but the institution can extend an individual fellow's tenure with funds from non-NEH sources.

The award begins in January, but our fellowship selection committee meets in late October of the previous year. How will travel costs and honoraria be covered?

Allowable costs for the selection of fellows may be incurred up to ninety days before the January 1, 2022 beginning of the period of performance. A recipient could therefore incur such expenses as early as October. Pre-award expenditures are incurred at the recipient's risk; the recipient's authority to approve such costs does not impose an obligation on NEH in the event an award is not made or is made for an amount that is less than the recipient anticipated.

What are NEH's expectations regarding the process of selecting fellows?

The fairness of a fellowship program's selection process is of great importance to NEH, which dispenses public funds. An institution supported by this program must demonstrate that the procedures for its fellowship competition—including the selection of the committee members who review applications for the institution—are expert and objective. Within the scope of an institution's mission and resources, recipients must assemble an annually rotating, diverse, and highly qualified group of reviewers. See section A1 of the notice of funding opportunity for additional information.

What is the difference between the two financial forms mentioned in the notice of funding opportunity? Do I need to complete both of them?

The Financial Report of Existing Fellowship Program form asks for information about outlays and funding for one year of the institution's entire existing fellowship program, including non-NEH fellowships and costs not supported by NEH funds. The Research and Related Budget Form is used to document funds requested from NEH in the current application to support the costs of selecting fellows and paying for their stipends; this budget also includes additional funding (if any) for fellows' stipends that is drawn from non-NEH sources. Both forms are required.

What are the reporting requirements in the FPIRI program?

See section F3 of the notice of funding opportunity for information on reporting requirements. NEH encourages recipients to report all products resulting from research by fellows who were funded by a FPIRI award, regardless of when those products appear.