



NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE HUMANITIES

DIVISION OF RESEARCH PROGRAMS: FELLOWSHIPS FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Updated November 18, 2024

A. Program Description

1. Can I apply for an award lasting less than six months or more than twelve months?

No. The period of performance for Fellowships ranges from six to twelve months. The period of performance must be **full-time** and **continuous**. Applications requesting a period of performance shorter than six months or longer than twelve months will not be considered.

2. Can I change the period of performance of my fellowship if I receive an award?

Yes. You will be able to specify the start date of your Fellowship after you have been offered an award. This date can differ from the date specified in your application, but you must start between January 1, 2026, and September 1, 2027.

You cannot lengthen your period of performance, but you can shorten it to a minimum of six months. Fellowships are \$5,000 per month, so if you reduce your grant period, the total amount of funding will be reduced. Grant periods must be whole months and must start on the first of the month. NEH cannot delay the period of performance beyond the stated timelines of this NOFO to accommodate overlapping individual awards. You must request NEH approval to change your period of performance.

3. My project is a [database, edition, memoir, etc.], is it eligible for this program?

Section D. 6 of the Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) includes a list of products that are unallowable for funding. They vary by funding opportunity and can change from previous years, so you should check the current list to ensure your project is allowed.

4. Does NEH support projects whose results will be written in a language other than English?

Yes. Applicants must provide a rationale for projects that will be written in a language other than English. The application itself must be written in English.

5. Does NEH restrict how I can spend the fellowship?

No. Fellowship awards are stipends paid directly to individuals. The stipends function as salary replacement and are designed to buy you time for your project. You may use your award to pay for anything you need to conduct approved project activities as outlined in your work plan. You will not submit an itemized budget or receipts, and you will not submit a financial report.

B. Application and Submission Information

1. How important is the format of the application (including appendices)?

Applications must follow the format provided in the NOFO. Applications that violate the format instructions, including page limits, will not be considered.

2. Are there required attachments?

Yes, the narrative, work plan, bibliography, and résumé attachments are required. In addition, there are one-page attachments that are conditionally required for editions, translations, and digital projects, and are recommended for database projects and for visual projects.

Check the “Application Component Table” in each Notice of Funding Opportunity for a full list of potential attachments. This table will tell you if they are “required,” “conditionally required,” or “recommended.”

3. What help is available for preparing the application?

NEH staff are able to answer questions about preparing your application and your eligibility. Staff may be reached at fellowships@neh.gov or (202) 606-8200. Because of the large number of applications received in the Fellowships program, NEH staff members are not able to comment on draft applications.

Applicants are encouraged to review the samples of previously funded applications, which are available on the Fellowships webpage, along with lists of recent awards.

There will be an informational webinar before the application deadlines. Dates and recordings are on the programs’ websites.

4. What technical support is available if I have trouble using Grants.gov or submitting the application?

Grants.gov operates a help desk. You can request technical support by sending email to support@grants.gov or calling 1-800-518-4726.

5. How should I title my application? Does NEH change project titles?

Your title should be descriptive of the project, substantive, and free of specialized language. It should be easily understood by the general public. Omit technical terms, jargon, and unfamiliar words. The title may not exceed 125 characters (including spaces and punctuation). Your NEH project title does not necessarily have to be the same as the title of your proposed publication.

Avoid using a main title that requires clarification by the subtitle. For example, “A History of Counterfeiting in the U.S., 1776-1900” is clearer than “Fakes and Fakers: A History of Counterfeiting in the U.S., 1776-1900.”

When possible, include places and dates indicating a project’s scope. For example, “Faith and Belief among New York City Catholics, 1945-1970” is clearer than “Faith and Belief in the Catholic Community.”

NEH reserves the right to re-title funded projects that do not follow agency guidelines. Award recipients, however, are permitted to use their preferred title for any award products.

6. Is it possible to extend the deadline?

No. Late applications will not be reviewed, except in the rare cases covered by NEH’s [policy on late submissions](#).

C. Application Review Information

1. How will my application be reviewed?

All applications receive peer review. More details about NEH’s review process are available in section E2. of the NOFO and [here](#).

2. Can I see the evaluators’ comments after the competition?

Yes. The notification you receive about the decision made on your application will contain instructions for requesting the evaluators’ comments. If your application is unsuccessful, the comments may help you revise it for resubmission. Even if your application is successful, we encourage you to request evaluator comments as they may help inform the project.

3. I applied for a fellowship last year and my application was unsuccessful. Will I be at a disadvantage if I reapply?

No. NEH encourages previous applicants to revise their applications and reapply. NEH recruits different reviewers from year to year and does not inform reviewers that a particular application was previously unsuccessful.

D. Additional information for born-digital scholarship

1. I am working on a digital publication. Can I apply to the Fellowships program?

Yes! While in the past we had a separate program (the “Fellowships for Digital Publication”), this year born-digital scholarship projects should apply to the main Fellowships program.

2. Are fellowships for born-digital projects reviewed the same way as all other NEH Fellowships applications?

Applications will be judged by the same criteria and held to the same standards of scholarly excellence. Applications for born-digital scholarship will be evaluated by the same panels as traditional print-based scholarship, arranged by scholarly discipline. You should describe your methods and any technology you plan to use in simple, jargon-free language.

3. I see a “Data management and sharing plan” (DMSP) is conditionally required for digital projects. What is a DMSP?

A Data Management and Sharing Plan is a document that lays out your plans for hosting, maintaining, and preserving the digital elements of your project. You should include:

- who is responsible for maintaining the project during the active period of maintenance and any plans to preserve part or all of the material after that period is over.
- mention what standards you are using for data and metadata formats (such as TEI, Dublin core, IIIF, etc.).
- explain any security precautions you are taking to protect the confidentiality of sensitive or private data, including names, identifying information (birth dates, social security numbers, other Personally Identifiable Information), or potentially sensitive information such as health information.

See the instructions for what should be included as Attachment 8: Data management and sharing plan, in section D2 of the Notice of Funding opportunity.

3.a I’m just building a personal database that won’t be published as part of my project, do I still need a DMSP?

No. If your data will not be part of the final publication and is not needed to replicate your research (e.g. is not *scientific data*, such as archaeological and ethnographic fieldwork, laboratory experiments, linguistic analysis, or other quantitative or qualitative studies with an emphasis on reliability and reproducibility), you do not need to provide a DMSP.

3.b I’m creating a website/interactive component to my project that is part of the final published project. Do I need a DMSP?

Yes. If you are publishing a digital component as well as creating a print product, you should tell us about the hosting, maintenance, and preservation of that digital component.

4. I am working on creating an interactive digital publication as a revision of an existing print publication or dissertation. Should I apply for support through the Fellowships program?

Yes, if you can demonstrate that the new digital publication will significantly extend or revise the previous argument in a way that amounts to new scholarly work. Simply putting previous scholarship online would not be competitive. Your application should clearly explain the differences between the new project and the previous printed version.

5. I want to turn a previously published print book into an e-Book. Can I do that through a Fellowship?

No, although if the research for your print book was supported by an NEH grant, you could contact your publisher with information about the [Fellowships Open Book Program](#). The Fellowships Open Book Program allows publishers to apply for funds to convert existing books to open access e-book publications and includes a royalty for the author.

E. Award Information

1. Can I route the award money through my institution?

No. Fellowships is an individual award and can be paid only directly to you. Please discuss any implications and possible arrangements with your institutions and your tax advisor.