



NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE
Humanities

DIVISION OF RESEARCH PROGRAMS

**FELLOWSHIP PROGRAMS AT
INDEPENDENT RESEARCH
INSTITUTIONS**

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Must I apply through Grants.gov?

Yes. All applications to this program must be submitted via Grants.gov. The NEH instructions for submission to Grants.gov can be found on the [program resource page](#).

I am looking for 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. A list of currently funded institutions is available on the [NEH website](#). In addition, 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 my university wants to expand its fellowship program. Is it eligible to apply?

No, institutions of higher education are not eligible to apply. Applicants must be research centers or institutions that are financed, governed, and administered independently of institutions of higher education. To be eligible, such a research center or institution must also have its own 501(c)(3) status.

Our independent research institution is ready to launch a fellowship program. Is it eligible to apply?

No. The FPIRI program supports only institutions that have administered fellowship programs

for at least the three years immediately preceding the application deadline.

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.

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

No. NEH-supported fellowships must be between four and 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 the selection committee for fellowships 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 beginning of the period of performance. A recipient center could therefore incur such expenses as early as October. These expenditures would be billed as pre-award costs. Pre-award expenditures are made 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 fellowships 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 every effort must be made to assemble an annually rotating, diverse, and highly qualified group of reviewers.

What is the difference between the two financial forms mentioned in the application guidelines? 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 FPIRI Three-Year Budget Request from NEH for Stipends and Selection Costs form consists of a three-year budget of the 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. The application must include both forms.

What are the reporting requirements under this type of award?

Over the three-year term of an award five reports are due: an annual report on the selection of NEH fellows and, at the end of the period of performance, a final performance report and a final financial report. In addition, institutions are asked to report all products resulting from research by fellows who were funded by a FPIRI award, regardless of when those products appear.