NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE HUMANITIES

DIVISION OF **RESEARCH PROGRAMS**

FELLOWSHIPS, NEH-MELLON FELLOWSHIPS FOR DIGITAL PUBLICATION, AND FELLOWSHIPS FOR ADVANCED SOCIAL SCIENCE RESEARCH ON JAPAN

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Updated December 20,2021

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. If you are offered an NEH Fellowship in December 2022, you can start as early as January 2023, or as late as September 2024. You cannot lengthen your period of performance, but you can shorten it to no less than six months. NEH cannot delay the period of performance beyond the stated timelines of this NOFO to accommodate overlapping individual awards.

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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) for each program 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.

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 appendices required?

In the Fellowships program, one-page appendices are conditionally required for editions, translations, database projects, and for visual projects.

In addition, applications for NEH-Mellon Fellowships for Digital Publications require one appendix showing the form of the proposed digital publication in wireframes, sitemaps, or screen shots.

Please see the instructions in each NOFO for details.

Note: The Fellowships program no longer requires writing samples.

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 (202) 606-8200 and at fellowships@neh.gov. Because of the large number of applications received in the Fellowships program, NEH staff members are not able to comment on draft applications.

NEH staff will read draft applications for NEH-Mellon Fellowships for Digital Publication. See section D4. "Submission dates and times" in the NOFO for details.

Applicants are encouraged to review the samples of previously funded applications, which are available on the main pages for [Fellowships](#), [NEH-Mellon Fellowships for Digital Publication](#), and [Fellowships for Advanced Social Science Research on Japan](#). Lists of recent awards in each program are also available on these pages.

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For each of the programs, 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.

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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 on NEH-Mellon Fellowships for Digital Publication

1. I am working on a digital publication. Am I required to apply to the NEH-Mellon Fellowships for Digital Publication opportunity?

No, but you are strongly encouraged to apply to it. The NEH Fellowships program has long supported digital projects and will continue to do so. The partnership between NEH and Mellon provides special support for scholarship that requires digital expression and publication to be fully realized. This might include multimedia work with video, images, or sound files integrated into the argument, or work that requires flexible reading pathways, interactivity, or other digital features not possible in print.

Note: the NEH-Mellon Fellowships for Digital Publication program does not support funding for databases. A full list of funding restrictions for each program can be found in section D6 of the relevant NOFO.

2. How will the review of applications submitted to the NEH-Mellon Fellowships differ from applications submitted to the NEH Fellowships program?

NEH-Mellon Fellowships for Digital Publication is a special opportunity within the larger NEH Fellowships competition, and applications will be judged by similar criteria and held to the same standards of scholarly excellence. Applications will be evaluated by separate peer review panels of scholars who are knowledgeable about digital humanities and digital publications.

3. I am working on developing a website to accompany a book. Should I apply for an NEH-Mellon Fellowships for Digital Publication?

Your project might be technically allowable, but may not be competitive depending on the balance between the website and the book. NEH-Mellon Fellowships for Digital Publication encourage those scholars who are working on projects that can only be carried out through digital publication. Sometimes digital projects are complemented by a print component. On the other hand, digital "side projects" such as websites that accompany print publications fall outside the goals of the special opportunity. It is not unusual, however, for both kinds of projects to compete in the NEH Fellowships program.

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4. I am working on creating a digital publication from an existing print publication. Should I apply for support through the NEH-Mellon Fellowships for Digital Publication special opportunity?

Yes. However, simply retrofitting previous scholarship for digital publication would likely be less competitive, unless you could demonstrate that the digital publication would create new and significant insights that intellectually go beyond the print material. If you are hoping to make an open-access e-book publication of an existing print book, you should instead 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.

5. I am working on a print publication and would like to offer it as an e-book as well. Should I apply to the NEH-Mellon Fellowships for Digital Publication program?

No. Printed books and their e-book equivalents are not supported by this program. NEH-Mellon Fellowships for Digital Publication support original projects that require digital means and digital publication. Successful projects will likely incorporate visual, audio, and/or other multimedia materials or flexible reading pathways that could not be included in print books (and their e-reader formats).