



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

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 2020, you can start as early as January 2021, or as late as September 2021. You can also shorten (but not lengthen) your period of performance to no less than six months.

3. 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 notice of funding opportunity. Applications that violate the format instructions, including page limits, will not be considered.

2. What help is available for preparing the application?

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

NEH staff will read draft applications for NEH-Mellon Fellowships for Digital Publication. See section D4. "Submission dates and times" in the notice of funding opportunity 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.

3. 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 book.

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., 1776-1990."

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.

4. Is it possible to extend the deadline?

No. Late applications will not be reviewed.

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 at E2. of the notice of funding opportunity, 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 reapply and does not inform reviewers that a application was unsuccessful in a previous competition. Moreover, NEH employs different reviewers from year to year. However, applicants may wish to revise their proposals.

D. 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 such scholarship at a moment when university and other presses are experimenting with digital publication solutions.

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, therefore applications will be judged by similar criteria and held to the same standards of scholarly excellence. Applications received for the special opportunity will be evaluated by separate peer review panels of scholars engaged with humanities research and 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 it would not be competitive. NEH-Mellon Fellowships for Digital Publication encourage those scholars who are working on projects that can only be carried out through digital publication. Digital “side projects” such as websites that accompany print publications fall outside the goals of the special opportunity. It is not unusual, however, for such projects to compete in the NEH Fellowships program.

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.

5. I am working on a print publication and would like to offer it as an e-book as well. Should I apply to this 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).