

WILSON CENTER FELLOWSHIPS

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Please read our Frequently Asked Questions below for additional information regarding the residential fellowship program and the competition. Applicants may address additional inquiries to fellowships@wilsoncenter.org.

Applications for the 2025-2026 fellowship competition must be submitted online by 11:59 p.m. Eastern Standard Time, October 1, 2024.

Eligibility

Q: Who is eligible to apply?

A: Scholars, practitioners, journalists, and public intellectuals with project proposals on global issues are invited to apply. Topics and scholarship should relate to key public policy challenges. Academic applicants must have a doctorate or JD. For other applicants, an equivalent level of professional achievement is expected.

Q: I am not a U.S. citizen. May I apply?

A: Yes. The Center welcomes applications from citizens or permanent residents from any country. Important: Applicants from countries outside the United States must hold a valid passport and be able to obtain a J1 visa even if they are currently in the United States. Prior to applying for any Wilson Center fellowship, prospective applicants without U.S. citizenship or U.S. legal permanent residency are responsible for verifying their eligibility for a J1 Research Scholar visa. By applying for a Wilson Center fellowship foreign applicants are therefore confirming that they are eligible to apply for a J1 Research Scholar visa. If you have any questions about your eligibility to obtain a J1 visa, please refer to the State Department's website:

<https://j1visa.state.gov>.

Q: I have a valid nonimmigrant U.S. visa, but it is not a J1. May I use this instead?

A: No. The Center requires all Fellowship awardees that are not U.S. citizens or U.S. legal permanent residents to apply and receive a J1 visa; no other visa is acceptable for this fellowship. Please note that spouses and children under 21 are eligible to come to the U.S. on a J2 visa.

Q: What do you mean by topics and scholarship should relate to key public policy challenges?

A: The Center aims to unite the world of ideas to the world of policy by supporting preeminent scholarship and linking that scholarship to issues of concern to officials in Washington. The Center distinguishes itself from policy institutions in its

6 A: Yes, you do not need an institutional affiliation to apply.

Q: I have completed all requirements for my Ph.D. except for my dissertation. May I apply for a fellowship?

A: No. Academics must be at the post-doctoral level and have published a book or monograph beyond the Ph.D. dissertation. Applicants outside of academia should have an equivalent level of professional achievement.

Q: I have received my Ph.D. and would like to come to the Center to continue working toward publication of my dissertation topic. May I apply?

A:

write, and reflect, and to interact and share ideas with colleagues from many different disciplines. Absences of more than one week should be discussed with the Scholars and Academic Relations Director.

The Application

Q: Where can I find the online application?

A: Please visit <http://www.wilsoncenter.org/fellowshipapplication/>

Q: What happens if I receive an error when applying online?

A: Please contact us at fellowships@wilsoncenter.org so that you may successfully submit your application.

Q: Is the Center looking for particular topics this year?

A: The Center does not have a quota for any particular topic in a given year. Priority is given to proposals which align with the programmatic work of the Center. Please visit

<https://www.wilsoncenter.org/woodrow-wilson-center-programs-and-initiatives> to learn more about each of the Center's programs in more detail. It is very important to explain how your work aligns with the Center's programmatic work and the relevance of your project to contemporary policy issues. Reviewers look for original, fresh research.

Q: How will I know that you have received my application online?

A: You will receive an email stating that you have successfully submitted your application.

Q: Can Center staff look over my proposal before I submit it?

A: No. Unfortunately, Center staff are not able to read or comment on draft proposals. It is important to maintain a fair and impartial process. Please see the link to the Social Science Research Council's "The Art of Writing Proposals." The Center recommends that you show your proposal to colleagues who are knowledgeable in your field so that they may make constructive comments.

Q: May I ask to see an example of an awarded proposal?

A: The Center does not provide examples of awarded proposals because each application is reviewed on an individual basis according to the criteria for selection in the application guidelines.

Q: If I am in the D.C. area, may I come in for an interview?

A: No. In fairness to applicants who live outside the area/outside the U.S., the Center does not conduct fellowship interviews.

Q: You require two reference letters. May I send three?

A: The Center requires two letters of reference. If more than two letters are sent, we will accept the first two letters we receive.

Q: How do I know the Center has received my reference letters?

A:

Q: I applied for a fellowship last year and did not get one. If I reapply this year with the same proposal, can I use the same references?

A: Yes. The Center can use the same references from last year for your current application. However, we prefer that you ask

