Humanities and Creative Arts Fellowships

February 11, 2020
Research Development Services & Foundation Relations

**Services:**

- Funding searches
- Funding strategy
- Checklists/templates/boilerplate
- Proposal development support

Foundation Relations solicits grants and stewards relationships specifically with private foundations.
Overview

• Common fellowships
  ➢ Federal
  ➢ Private Foundations and Associations
• Finding fellowships
• Mock review panel
• Proposal development tips
According to the NEH, the humanities includes:

• History
• Literature
• History and theory of art and performing art
• Philosophy and ethics
• Archaeology and cultural anthropology
• Comparative religion
• Jurisprudence
• Social sciences employing humanistic methods
Fellowships

• Book, digital material and publication, peer-reviewed article, translation with annotation or critical apparatus, critical edition

• $5K per month for up to 12 months

• 6-12 months
Collaborative Research

• Book; digital material and publication, other scholarly resource; themed issue of peer-reviewed journal; conference, workshop

• Up to $250K

• 12-24 months
Scholarly Editions & Translations

- Up to $300K
- Up to $525K for projects meeting the current NEH theme “A More Perfect Union”
- 12-36 months
Other NEH opportunities:

- Public Scholars Program
- NEH-Mellon Fellowships for Digital Publication
- Fellowship Programs at Independent Research Institutions
• Creative Writing Fellowships
  o Fiction, poetry, and creative nonfiction
  o $25K

• Translation Projects
  o Translate works into English
  o $12.5K or $25K depending on project merit
Scholar Program (3 to 12 months)

• Flex Awards (multiple, short term)
• Global Scholar (multiple countries)
• Postdoctoral and Early Career Awards (completed doctorate w/past 5 years)

Note: Goal of program is international networking, not contribution to field.
ACLS Fellows

- Monograph, articles, digital publication(s), critical edition, or other scholarly resources
- $75K for Professors
- $50K for Associate Professors
- $40K for Assistant Professors
- 6-12 months
ACLS Collaborative Research

• For tangible research project
• Support for team of 2 or more scholars who will take equal credit
• Up to $201K
• Up to 24 months
American Council of Learned Societies

Other ACLS opportunities:

• Frederick Burkhardt Residential Fellowships for Recently Tenured Scholars
• ACLS Digital Extension Grants
• Luce/ACLS Program in Religion, Journalism & International Affairs
• Robert H.N. Ho Family Foundation Program in Buddhist Studies
Howard Foundation Fellowships

- 8 awarded in the 2020 cycle
- $35K to augment sabbatical leave
- Sequence of eligible fields
  - 2020-21: Fiction, Poetry, and Playwriting & Theatre Studies
  - 2021-22: Creative Nonfiction & History
  - 2022-23: Photography & Film Studies
  - 2023-24: Music Performance & Musicology
  - 2024-25: Emerging Arts & Science/Tech. Studies
Guggenheim Fellowships

• “…for individuals who have demonstrated exceptional capacity for productive scholarship or exception creative ability in the arts.”

• 175 per year

• Grant amounts vary
Andrew Carnegie Fellows Program

- For high caliber scholarship in humanities and social sciences
- Only 1 junior and 1 senior scholar nominee per institution per year
- Chosen through limited submission process
- $200K in funding
- 12-24 months
Ford Foundation Postdoctoral Fellowship

• Less than 10 years from earning Ph.D.
• Funds humanities research in several areas!!
• For people from diverse backgrounds
• Must demonstrate commitment to diversity and inclusion
• $50K
• 9-12 months
Suite of Tools for Researchers

- Thousands of funding opportunities
- Create saved searches
- Receive weekly emails with new opportunities specific to you
- Get updates on tracked opportunities
Mock Panel Review

Maram Epstein
Warren Ginsberg
Stephanie LeMenager
NEH Evaluation Criteria

Fellowships and Summer Stipends

1. Intellectual significance & value to humanities.
2. Quality of work as an interpreter of the humanities.
3. Quality of conception, definition, and clarity of expression.
4. Feasibility of work-plan, and dissemination & access plans.
5. Likelihood of project completion.
Rating Scale

E = Excellent

VG = Very Good

G = Good

SM = Some Merit

NC = Not Competitive
Applications

Religious Studies, Religious Liberty in Post-Revolutionary France

Russian History, Stalin’s World and Dictatorship in Modern Times

Latin American Studies, The Creole Circus and the Theater in Argentina and Uruguay, 1860-1910
What’s necessary for a successful proposal?
Proposal Development

Tips

Grant writing is a different beast than scholarly and academic writing.
The Art of Preparation

• Register on funder’s site well in advance of deadline.
• Read guidelines, start to finish. Note any eligibility limitations.
• Review past successful proposals.
• Identify a peer willing to review your work.*

*RDS provides stipends for external reviewers w/match.
The Art of Writing

- Start early! Time for multiple drafts.
- Use active voice. Be concise.
- Write both for specialists and generalists.
- Avoid technical language or jargon. Define it where it must be used.
- Proofread. Sloppy applications don’t impress the reviewers.
The Art of Persuasion

• Address all evaluation criteria.
• Explain / foreground project’s significance!
• Locate project in larger scholarly context.
• Locate project in your scholarly trajectory.
• Provide snapshots/stories that intrigue the reader.
• Provide a realistic timeframe & workplan.
The Art of Persuasion

• State the expected outcomes of your work clearly.
• Describe project with enough concrete detail to be convincing. Don’t exaggerate.
• Make no assumptions about the readers’ knowledge of your research.
Other Artful Tips

• **Reference letter writers:** Target audience of your work (not just someone who likes you).

• **Bibliography:** Keep it up to date. Specialists will note if important works are missing.

• **Feedback:** Both peer *and* program officer if possible.
Other Artful Tips continued

• **Save effort**: Apply to multiple funders for the same project.

• **Reviewer comments**: Ask for them if proposal is rejected.

• **Don’t give up**: Successful applicants often fail at first. Try and try again!
Resources

“Writing Proposals for ACLS Fellowship Competitions”

“How to Get a Grant from NEH”

Fulbright Application Samples

RDS’s Checklists and Templates