



NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE  
**Humanities**

**DIVISION OF RESEARCH PROGRAMS**

**FELLOWSHIPS AND  
FELLOWSHIPS FOR  
ADVANCED SOCIAL  
SCIENCE RESEARCH ON  
JAPAN**

**FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS**

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**I. Eligibility**

**1. I am an independent scholar. What are my chances of receiving a Fellowship?**

Your chances are the same as any other applicant's. All Fellowships applicants must propose a significant project and present evidence of their qualifications, including publications, presentations, and other relevant experience.

**2. I am a graduate student. Am I eligible to apply for a fellowship?**

No. Graduate students seeking support for a degree in the humanities should consider the Department of Education's [Jacob K. Javits Fellowship Program](#). But if you have satisfied all the requirements for a degree as of May 1, 2012, and are awaiting its conferral, you are eligible to apply for an NEH Fellowship. Have your dean or department chair fax a signed letter to NEH (to 202-606-8204), stating that you have successfully completed all requirements for the Ph.D.; alternatively, a PDF version of the signed letter may be included as an attachment to an e-mail message sent to [fellowships@neh.gov](mailto:fellowships@neh.gov). In either case, the letter must arrive no later than May 1, 2012.

### **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 proposal itself must be written in English

### **4. May I apply to translate a work into English if other English translations already exist?**

Yes. In the proposal narrative, provide a rationale for a new translation.

### **5. I am involved in a collaborative project. Can collaborators split a fellowship?**

No. For NEH Fellowships, each collaborator must submit a separate application, and panelists will be asked to evaluate each application on its own merit. Applicants proposing to work together may wish to apply instead or in addition for an NEH [Collaborative Research Grant](#).

## **II. Other Fellowship Opportunities**

### **Does NEH collaborate with other institutions to provide additional funding for individual scholars in the humanities?**

NEH collaborates with several organizations to offer support for research programs:

#### *Library of Congress (LOC) – John W. Kluge Center Fellowships*

Projects that draw on the collections of the Library of Congress are eligible for support. Interested applicants should apply directly to [LOC's Kluge Center Fellowships Program](#).

#### *Japan-United States Friendship Commission (JUSFC) – [Fellowship Program for Advanced Social Science Research on Japan](#)*

Subjects may include modern Japanese political economy, international relations and society, and United States-Japan relations. Applicants may consult the [JUSFC website](#) for additional information.

#### *NEH Grants for Fellowship Programs at Independent Research Institutions (FPIRI)*

Projects to be undertaken at independent centers for advanced study, libraries, and museums in the United States, and research centers overseas, are eligible for support. Individual scholars must apply directly to the institutions themselves. Available [here](#) is a list of currently funded institutions.

#### *NEH and National Science Foundation Fellowship Program for Documenting Endangered Languages (DEL)*

Projects on endangered languages are eligible for support. A full description of the DEL program is located [here](#).

## **III. Application and References**

## **1. What help is available for preparing the proposal?**

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

Applicants are encouraged to review the samples of previously funded applications, which are available on the [program resource page](#), as well lists of recent awards: [Fellowships for University Teachers](#), [Fellowships for College Teachers and Independent Scholars](#), and [Fellowships for Advanced Social Science Research on Japan](#).

## **2. I applied for a grant last year and my proposal was unsuccessful. Will I be at a disadvantage if I reapply?**

No. NEH encourages previous applicants to reapply and does not inform panelists that a proposal was unsuccessful in a previous competition. Moreover, NEH employs different panelists each year.

## **3. My proposal is interdisciplinary. What category should I select from the drop-down menu for “Field of Project” on Form III (the NEH Supplemental Information for Individuals Form)?**

NEH supports proposals that cross disciplinary boundaries (as well as proposals that are rooted in a single discipline). If your project is interdisciplinary, when selecting the project field you should choose the field that best captures the central focus of the proposal. In selecting referees, you should choose two who can effectively attest to your ability to work in the disciplines that are relevant to your project.

## **4. My reference is unable to submit a letter online. Is there an alternative?**

NEH strongly encourages referees to submit their letters online. If they are unable to do so, referees may e-mail letters to [fellowships@neh.gov](mailto:fellowships@neh.gov) or fax them to 202-606-8204.

## **IV. Using Grants.gov**

### **1. How do I know if I have submitted my application successfully?**

After you submit your application, you should receive four e-mail messages confirming receipt of your application. To ensure that your application is properly processed, please verify that you have received all four confirmations. The first three are from Grants.gov:

1. “Grants.gov Submission Receipt”;
2. “Grants.gov Submission Validation Receipt”; and
3. “Grants.gov Grantor Agency Retrieval Receipt.”

These messages are normally sent within twenty-four hours of the submission, but minor delays could occur in the event of heavy system usage.

If you do not receive these messages, or if the messages indicate that the application has been rejected, contact Grants.gov ([www.grants.gov](http://www.grants.gov)) at 1-800-518-GRANTS (4726) or [support@grants.gov](mailto:support@grants.gov). Include the Grants.gov tracking number in correspondence regarding the application.

#### 4. NEH confirmation receipt

The fourth e-mail message is from NEH and assigns your application an NEH tracking number, which is different from your Grants.gov tracking number. You will receive this e-mail message within ten business days *after* the application deadline.

### **2. Can I check to see whether my letter writers have submitted their letters?**

Yes. After you have received your NEH confirmation receipt, you may check the status of your letters of reference by logging in to [the secure area of NEH's website](#). Enter your NEH tracking number (or application number) and your Grants.gov tracking number. You will be able to see the names and e-mail addresses of your letter writers and whether your letters of reference have arrived. (You will also be sent e-mail notification when each letter arrives.) If necessary, you may also send reminders to your letter writers from this site.

### **3. What is the Application for Federal Domestic Assistance - Individual Form, and where do I find it?**

The Application for Federal Domestic Assistance- Individual Form is a standard government application form. It is included in the "Mandatory Documents" field of the application package that you download from Grants.gov. To begin filling out the form, highlight the name of the form and move it to the "Mandatory Documents for Submission" field by using the arrow button on the form and then the "Open Form" button located beneath the "Mandatory Documents for Submission" field. (In Section IV of the guidelines, "Application and Submission Information," see "How to Submit Your Application," specifically the discussion of Form I under STEP 4.)